

Peace move in firemen's strike beaten by 14 to 1

The executive of the Fire Brigades Union yesterday rejected by 14 votes to one a call by moderates for a special delegate conference aimed at calling off the firemen's strike. The union will meet the Government and employers, probably on Tuesday, for the first tripartite talks since the strike began.

First tripartite talks planned next week

By Christopher Thomas
Labour Reporter

The Fire Brigades Union executive voted 14 to one yesterday against recalling the national delegate conference that alone can end the firemen's seven-week strike.

One executive member was absent. The union will ask the TUC General Council to convene a congress to challenge the way the Government is interpreting the TUC's policy for an orderly return to free collective bargaining. Leaders of the FBU are heartened by the narrow margin of 20 votes to 17 by which the general council rejected a call for a national campaign against the Government's policy for limiting earnings increases to a tenth.

The union is to meet the Government and the local authority employers, probably on Tuesday, for the first tripartite talks since the stoppage began. It will reassert its willingness to forgo the employers' offer for a reduced working week from next November in return for more money now. In any case, the union believes it would be virtually impossible, because of training difficulties, to increase manpower by the necessary five thousand men in time.

The original target for a pay rise of three tenths remains on the table but in the face of the Government's determination and the TUC's unwillingness to support the men, the figure is no longer regarded as attainable.

The union will be looking for some movement from the employers and the Government on the timing of an award which has been offered. That would give firemen a two-stage increase in 1978 and 1979, to take their pay up to the average skilled industrial worker's wage.

Mr Terence Parry, FBU general secretary, said after the seven-hour executive meeting in London last night: "We do not want to prolong the strike any longer than it has to be. The best step now is to get in the same room as the Government and the employers. Although constitutionally the Government is not involved in local authority negotiations, it is never far away."

Reports from the union's 14 regions yesterday left no doubt

Healey hint on next stage of pay policy

By Michael Haffield
Political Reporter

Cabinet ministers will begin the new year with early discussions among themselves about the next stage of pay policy after the ending of phase three and the 12-month rule.

It was being emphasised last night that no conclusions are likely until March at the earliest, after which formal discussions with the unions will have to be opened.

A hint of what the Government has in mind is given by Mr Healey, the Chancellor, in an interview in the latest issue of *Socialist Commentary*. He states that the Government has a duty to give "the country some idea of the aggregate increase in earnings compatible with growth and keeping inflation under control."

"What would be desirable would be that the various unions that aggregate on the distribution of increases. The Government of West Germany, Austria and some Scandinavian countries make that general view although they differed on implementation," he said.

Mr Healey said he would welcome talks within the unions and the employers' organizations on the best way for Britain to tackle the matter.

The Government cannot move too early on the next stage of pay policy, he said, but must initiate unacceptable wage demands, which are still being negotiated under the present phase. For that reason there have been only informal discussions inside the Cabinet's economic strategy committee. They are likely to continue for some weeks as it monitors the present pay round.

Cabinet ministers do not as yet see eye-to-eye on whether there should be a phase four, although the Prime Minister has made it known publicly that he is antipathetic to free collective bargaining.

While a further phase is expected, the argument among Cabinet ministers will revolve round its nature. Mr Healey, in his interview, said: "More and more people are coming to realize that no government can avoid having an incomes policy so far as its own employees are concerned."

It must have an attitude about what is the appropriate level of wage increases in the various parts of the public sector where it is either employer or paymaster. But, of course, to have a pay policy for the public sector, in the private sector can be very unfair to the public sector."

On the firemen's case, Mr Healey says that what the Government had offered would be based on a form of comparability, and that he had in mind many parts of the public sector. "To the extent that this is becoming inevitable, it is moving us perhaps more rapidly than we foresaw towards a more general policy in the public sector, and raising the question of how you deal with the problems of the private sector."

Mr Callaghan considers new plan for Treasury's role

By Peter Hennessy

The Prime Minister is considering a plan that could resolve the year-long debate about the future of the Treasury and the Civil Service Department. Mr Callaghan is attracted by the possibility of linking the two ministries through a common establishment organization.

Such a move would achieve many of his objectives without incurring the disruption the Prime Minister is at pains to avoid in the run-up to a general election. The concept of a Treasury-CSD "condominium", as it is known in Whitehall, is a late addition to the options put before Mr Callaghan by his officials as he considers what to do to make a proposal to the Civil Service published in September by the Commons Select Committee on Expenditure.

Under the condominium scheme, Sir Ian Bancroft, as head of the Home Civil Service, would retain his overall department and clear responsibility for running the Civil Service and making senior appointments. Similarly, Sir Douglas Warr, Permanent Secretary to the Treasury, would remain the official primary responsibility for the Treasury.

There would, however, be a greater exchange of staff between the two departments and closer cooperation over policy making in areas of joint concern. In particular, Treasury management of public spending would be linked more closely with CSD control of manpower. Cooperation would also extend to other areas, such as Civil Service pay and management services.

Mr Callaghan has been concerned with the CSD's lack of impact in Whitehall, a deficiency for which it was also criticized by the expenditure committee. He is thought to believe that a closer liaison with the Treasury staff would buttress its influence in dealing with other departments.

The two ministries, if the scheme was adopted, would have a joint strength of 6,288 officials: 1,143 drawn from the Treasury and 5,145 from the CSD. A deputy secretary would probably be appointed to lead a common establishment division. Sir Ian and Sir Douglas, who get on well as former colleagues in the Treasury before it was split with the foundation of the CSD in 1968, would become involved in the day-to-day running of the new arrangement only in cases of exceptional difficulty.

The "common services" approach to departmental management was introduced in March 1974 by Sir Antony Part and Mr Douglas Lovelock, when they were instructed by the incoming Prime Minister, Sir Harold Wilson, to break up the huge Department of Trade and Industry into three separate ministries.

A new plan to link the Treasury with the Civil Service Department in a "condominium" has been put to the Prime Minister. Under it Sir Douglas Warr (left) would remain responsible for overall management of the economy and Sir Ian Bancroft (right) would run the Civil Service and make senior appointments. There would be a greater exchange of staff between the two departments



Their solution of a joint establishment organization has had its critics. It has sometimes proved difficult, for example, to find agreement, especially over questions of to which ministry the best people should be appointed.

A Treasury-CSD condominium, however, would meet with relatively little resistance among top officials and ministers in Great George Street, unlike some previously canvassed options. Mr Healey, the Chancellor, made clear last spring, for example, that he would not allow any move to take away the Treasury's general expenditure divisions and merge them with the manpower side of the CSD in a new department of management and Budget.

Sir Douglas Warr was equally opposed to the Treasury's resubordinating the functions it lost in 1968.

The Prime Minister is most unlikely to make any fundamental change in the central departments. In a White Paper, expected in February, he is thought likely to choose either the status quo or the partial, if significant, reform of a Treasury-CSD condominium.

US rebuff to Palestine state annoys Mr Sadat

By Our Foreign Staff

President Sadat said yesterday that he was "disappointed" with President Carter's statement on Wednesday night, indicating that he preferred limited autonomy for the West Bank and Gaza to the full independence of a separate Palestinian state, demanded by Egypt and other Arab countries.

Mr Begin, the Israeli Prime Minister, said that the Carter remark would help the negotiations for a Middle East peace settlement and that the Israelis felt a Palestinian state between Israel and Jordan would threaten their security. The Israeli peace plan, disclosed to the Knesset on Wednesday, offers limited self-rule for Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

In an interview with television network correspondents broadcast in the United States on Wednesday night, Mr Carter said that Mr Begin had taken a "long step forward" in offering self-rule to the Palestinian Arabs on the West Bank and Gaza. He said the United States would support a "flexible" approach in reaching a compromise.

Both Mr Begin and President Sadat were to be congratulated for their bold and courageous actions in seeking an overall peace settlement. Even though there were still disagreements there was no reason to be discouraged about the outlook for further negotiations.

The American role in the peace process was to be supportive, Mr Carter said, to try to resolve difficulties when they arose and to give advice and counsel when it was requested. The progress that had been made in recent weeks was "remarkable" and was greater than even he had anticipated.

Asked how he thought Palestinian demands for rights on the West Bank should be met, Mr Carter repeated his own preference for a Palestinian homeland or entity, probably linked to Jordan, rather than an independent state. "If a personal preference is that permanent peace can best be maintained if there is not a fairly radical new independent nation in the heart of the Middle East," he said.

He added that until 1975 he was re-elected unopposed as vice-president. Since then Mr McGeehey and Mr William McLean, general secretary until his death earlier this year, had given their support to other candidates.

More than a thousand miners at Selsburgh colliery, near Doncaster, Eire, continued their overtime battle yesterday in pursuit of a local productivity agreement.

A petition signed by 35,000 people against coal board plans to mine in the Vale of Belvoir, Nottinghamshire, will be presented to the Prime Minister soon.



New Year Tour: President Carter waving goodbye as he sets off for Poland on the first leg of his nine-day trip. On arrival in Warsaw yesterday he was welcomed by Mr Giersek, the Polish Communist leader. He will then travel on to Iran, India, Saudi Arabia, France and Belgium. In Warsaw, Poland's disident Public Self-Defence Committee issued a statement saying it welcomed Mr Carter's visit because of the President's support for human and civil rights.

"Your stand in this question has especially great significance for us, who speak out in defence of these rights in Poland", the statement added.

Meanwhile, security has been increased in Tehran after a bomb explosion damaged the Iran-America Society's language coaching centre. Three people were said to be injured in the blast.

Carter tour aims, page 4

Finns buy UK planes in £100m barter deal

By Arthur Reed
Air Correspondent

In one of the most unusual deals in the history of the British aircraft industry, British Aerospace yesterday sold 50 Hawk trainer aircraft worth £100m to Finland and undertook to market Finnish products to a similar amount.

British Aerospace has in fact already placed some £30m worth of the offer goods, which include vodka, earth-moving equipment and liquorice sweets, and expects to move the lot within three years.

The goods are being sold through British Aerospace sales offices around the world. "Shifting goods from Finland is now the second highest priority when our salesmen go out to meet customers", an aircraft industry executive said yesterday.

It is expected that most of the offer goods will be sold abroad. They are already finding enthusiastic buyers in North America, but will also find their way to countries where Finnish salesmen have seldom penetrated in the past.

In addition to the items mentioned, the long list includes trade machinery and wood products, gliders, ear protectors, television sets, copper and zinc and prefabricated housing.

The offer deal was an important factor in the choice

by the Finns of a British aircraft rather than its four major rivals, the Alpha Jet developed by France and West Germany, the Saab 105 from Sweden, the Italian Macchi 339, and the L39 from Czechoslovakia.

But the Hawk, a two-seater trainer powered by one Rolls-Royce/Turbo-Prop Adour jet engine, also sold in its own right on the experience of service with the Royal Air Force, which is buying 175.

The Hawk was developed by Hawker Siddeley, now part of British Aerospace, and made its maiden flight in August 1974.

The Finnish Hawks will be manufactured at Kingston and Dunsfold, Surrey, Brighthelm, Hampshire, and Bournemouth, Dorset. As part of the deal agreed by the Finnish cabinet, the Finns will learn how to make the aircraft and the final 46 will be assembled in their country.

The Finnish aircraft industry will also manufacture parts for the Adour engine, and electronic equipment. The engine parts of the deal is worth £24m. Mr C. M. Chandler, managing director of the Kingston-Brough division of British Aerospace, said yesterday: "We approached the Finnish market with a single-minded endeavour to succeed. We were fully conscious of the significance of success in other potential markets, and this was reflected in the level of effort invested in capturing the order."

Beaches polluted by collision of supertankers

Port Elizabeth, Dec. 29—The worst oil pollution ever known off the South African coastline has hit beaches and destroyed marine life up to 250 miles west of here as a result of the collision on December 16 between the two American-owned supertankers, Venzol and Venpet.

Government pollution experts today flew along the coast to examine a slick several miles long lying just beyond the Cape beaches—Agence France-Press.

The talks resume on Tuesday.

Crashes rise at 'mini' roundabouts

By Our Monitoring Correspondent

The conversion from large to "mini" roundabouts at road junctions has almost doubled the number of accidents, according to a report by the government-supported Transport and Road Research Laboratory.

At roundabouts where the size of the central island has been drastically reduced all accidents increased by 91 per cent, and those involving fatal and serious injuries by 200 per cent.

The report says the figures emphasize the need for care in converting the old-style roundabout. In particular, crossing movements must be adequately deflected. The report observes that present design recommendations lay down criteria for achieving that.

But where mini roundabouts have been introduced at junctions previously controlled either by the road priority or by traffic lights, accidents have been markedly reduced.

At junctions where mini roundabouts have replaced traffic lights and serious accidents fell by 62 per cent. At sites formerly subject to priority control there was a 34 per cent drop in all accidents and a 46 per cent reduction in those involving fatal and serious injury.

Laser lighting

The pinnacle above Big Ben will be illuminated by a green argon gas laser beam between dusk and 11 pm during the remainder of the Christmas recess, beginning tomorrow, the Department of the Environment announced yesterday.

Sinn Fein raided

Police raided the headquarters of the Provisional Sinn Fein in Falls Road, Belfast, yesterday, and arrested two men. Files, papers and a telex machine were seized from the headquarters less than two weeks ago.

Loser in Scottish miners' ballot resigns position

Mr David Bolton, one of the defeated candidates in the recent ballot for the general secretaryship of the Scottish Association of the National Union of Mineworkers, has resigned as vice-president. He is a replacement for Mr Michael McGeehey, the president, about the way the election was conducted.

The winner was Mr Eric Clarke, a Labour councillor on Lothian Regional Council. He received 1,100 more votes than Mr Bolton.

Mr Bolton said yesterday that since 1975 a campaign had been waged against him by other members of the Scottish leader, and that he had been ostracized by them.

"One of the reasons I am resigning is the method in

EEC to publish floor prices on steel imports

Minimum prices for some 140 steel imports into the European Community will be announced today. It is believed they will be on average about 7 per cent below the Community's internal guideline prices. Steel companies will be prohibited from aligning prices on cheaper imports, although the competitive edge of foreign suppliers will be less keen than in recent months. Page 15

Dollar falls on news of Fed appointment

The dollar lost ground on foreign exchange markets as dealers reacted to the news that Mr William Miller is to replace Dr Arthur Burns as chairman of the Federal Reserve Board at the end of January. Sterling continued to climb, reaching \$1.9275 at one time. Page 15

Paris 'vote rigging'

Mitterrand, the French Socialist leader, has accused the Government of attempting to rig the votes of Frenchmen resident abroad. He claims that the blank postal proxy votes of Frenchmen living in Gabon have been handed to a pro-Government organization. Page 3

'Paper tiger' survives

The Equal Opportunities Commission, set up two years ago, has survived some sharp criticism. It has a promising record of achievement on behalf of women despite a gibe about being a "paper tiger". Page 3

School discipline

Mr Norman St John-Stevas, Conservative spokesman on education, says schools need firmer discipline and higher moral standards to provide for a modern industrial society. Page 2

Malta letter bomb kills schoolgirl

The daughter of a doctor has been killed and his wife and son have been injured by a letter bomb in Malta. Dr Edwin Grech's daughter, Karen, was home for Christmas from her school in England. A letter bomb was also sent to another doctor but it did not explode. Page 3

Food: The British herring catch this year was the lowest this century; the price was the highest

2

Northern Ireland: Mr Mason, the Secretary of State, said in a new year message to the people of the province, says the tide has turned against terrorism

3

Spain: Basques suspected of hijacking second van with explosives

4

British 'Brookings': The Ford Foundation is considering investing in a London institute for studying how government policies work, similar to the one in Washington

4

Leader page, 13

Letters: On a Palestinian state, from Lord Caradon; pay and pensions in the Civil Service, from Lord Orr-Ewing. Leading articles: New man at the Fed; Firemen's strike; MOT tests. Features: Pages 8 and 12.

Michael Banks on the challenge facing Mr Roy Jenkins; David Palfrey compares the first Elizabethan age with our own; Bernard Levin recalls Kai Lung.

Arts: Page 9. David Robinson gives a movie alphabet for 1977; Irving Wardle on *Oliver!* (Albery Theatre); Ned Chaffetz talks to Michael Bogdanov, the Young Vic's next director.

Obituary: Page 14. Professor P. A. Sheppard; Mr Norman Macdonald; Mr Charles Cudworth. Sports: Page 5.

Crickets: Boycott to captain England in one-day match against Pakistan; India make three changes for third Test match; Tennis: John Lloyd in semi-final round of Australian Open; Racing: Business News, pages 15-20.

Stock markets: Equities were subdued and the FT index closed 0.2 up at 490.6. There was demand for short gilt.

Financial Editor: West Street and the dollar; Europe/East realign and high expectations.

Business features: Ronald Pullen and David Blake conclude the examination of Britain's relations with the EEC at the end of the transitional period of membership.

Business Diary: A quiz for the year's end.

We might even manage a smile in 1978

As consultants in property management and investment we tend to be rather serious people. But 12 months ago to the day, in this very spot, we shot a little ray of optimism through the prevailing economic gloom. And right on target it was too. Since last December 30th, the property market has improved quite dramatically. We are certainly doing more letting, selling, buying, investing, developing and managing than ever before. We might even manage a smile in 1978.

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the commission
return a report
on the progress
of the discrimination
study. The school
could then
introduce a
year-long inter-

HOME NEWS

'The Good Old Days' becomes longest-running light entertainment show

Music-hall story starts on twenty-fifth year



Mr Barney Colehan (centre), producer of "The Good Old Days", and Mr Leonard Sachs (second left), its compere, celebrating its anniversary with Ken Dodd (fourth right), regular members of the cast, and Mr Colehan's secretary (second right).

By Kenneth Gooking

Mr Barney Colehan will produce his 25th anniversary special of *The Good Old Days* tomorrow after *Match of the Day*. Next month he launches the programme on its twenty-fifth year, the longest-running light entertainment show in the world, the BBC says.

Mr Colehan conceived the idea of presenting variety in a true music-hall setting at the City Varieties Theatre, Leeds, beginning with a production in 1952 called *The Story of the Music-Hall*, and following with a series in 1953 which has run without a break every winter since then.

Where Chaplin, Dan Leno and Lily Langtry once trod the boards, there appear before the cameras and audience, dressed

in period costume such modern artists as Ken Dodd, Morecambe and Wise (said 25 guineas on their first appearance), Roy Castle and Dora Bryan.

Leonard Sachs links the acts as the allusive chairman, having followed Don Gemmell into the chair after the first couple of shows.

The purists will say there was never a chairman for Edwardian music-hall, but we needed someone to link and introduce the acts", Mr Colehan says.

The acts have changed but not the format: and if it seems anachronistic to have stars of stage, radio and television playing to not merely a few hundred people but millions, he has an answer to that, too.

"I can now use people like

Sandie Shaw and Eartha Kitt, and it doesn't seem strange. It succeeds because you can put Eartha in a setting with a song like 'I was a good little girl, 'til I met you' and it works."

Artist change, so do costs. In the 1950s the whole show could be done on a budget of £700, often less, and the artists collected less than £300 between them. Today it costs £12,000.

Ken Dodd made his first television appearance on the show in 1955, receiving £32 5s 4d. He is emphatic about the value of *The Good Old Days* as a time when the stars are closing up and down the country.

"The theatre owners say they want to close them because they cannot get the artists. Rubbish. It is the other way round:

close down the theatres and you are never going to get the stars. Where are they supposed to learn their trade?"

If the owners do not want them, Mr Dodd says, the theatres should be run by trusts, and that is an area where the Theatre Trust has already shown it will play an important part.

He has played in 20 of the shows. "It is very like a pension scheme: I call it 'Barney's plan'."

Members of the audience are given a guide to what is required in the way of Edwardian costume when they get their tickets; some have waited four or five years to take part and the waiting list is now closed with 25,000 people in the queue; enough, it is estimated, to keep the programme going until 1987.

Woman who slapped man loses case

An industrial tribunal in Birmingham has ruled that it was gross misconduct for a woman to slap a man on the face. It said yesterday that Mrs Florence Marshall, aged 54, a factory worker, was out of order when she slapped the man after she had lost her temper with him.

The tribunal said her action was against the "charter for employees" operated by the company, BRD Company, of Aldridge, Staffordshire. It agreed with the company that the violence amounted to gross misconduct and that the company did not act unfairly in dismissing Mrs Marshall, of Walsall Road, Heath End, Pelsall.

Mr Stephen Eastwood, giving the tribunal decision in writing, said that the man put down materials with which Mrs Marshall had to work far away for her to reach and she shouted at him.

Mr Eastwood said it was argued that the company had not taken into account Mrs Marshall's age and previous good record, but violence among machinery in a crowded factory, and its possible consequence, made it a serious offence.

Terrorist tide has turned, Mr Mason tells Ulster

From Our Correspondent Belfast

The change in security is noted in a new year message from Mr Mason, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, to the people of the province yesterday. Bombings were down by three fifths, there were markedly fewer deaths, and a record number of people had been charged and convicted of serious crimes, he said.

"There can be no doubt that, the tide has turned against the terrorist."

The Government had killed for ever the myth of economic withdrawal. It was concerned with the quality of life and was determined that there could be no second-class citizens.

"But," Mr Mason continued, "this is not yet enough. The commission of crime is still a major problem and its consequences affect the community."

In the coming year he wished to see progress on economic and social welfare, security, and the political situation.

Although he sensed no groundswell for change in the political structures he recognized that greater stability might make people want more say in running their affairs. The pace of political change depended on their willingness

to work together. He was not there to impose solutions.

The coming year would be vital for Northern Ireland. He realized the risk of optimism but believed that many people were cautiously agreeing that the return to normality had begun.

"We must now increase the momentum," he said. "We must brighten up the whole province. We must restore its attraction for the businessman and for the tourist. Northern Ireland had much to offer both."

The resources, men and money will be devoted to it, he went on. "But above all for the people of the province we are getting rid of the misery and unhappiness which has been so much a part of life for far too long."

Belfast blasts: Two bombs exploded in a central Belfast shop at lunchtime yesterday (the Press Association reports). They were in the Kitchen Centre in Peter's Hill but no one was hurt.

The fire they started quickly took hold and burnt out the building. The bombs were planted by two men who ran out of the shop, shouting a warning.

In brief

Man with garotte discharged

Terence Downey, aged 18, who said he carried a wire garotte in his trouser-purse, was discharged yesterday after being convicted of having the weapon, and possessing 484mg of cannabis resin.

Skateboarders warned

Skateboarders in Sheffield face prosecution if the persistently defying police warnings are ignored.

Publisher divorced

The wife of Mr Anthony Francis John Crosthwaite-Eyre, aged 37, the publisher, was granted a decree nisi by consent in London yesterday.

Lampreys return

Lampreys have been removed in the Trent after the absence of sixty years near Newark, Nottinghamshire.

WEST EUROPE

Officials planning fraudulent use of postal votes by Frenchmen living abroad, M Mitterrand says

From Charles Hargrove Paris, Dec 29

M Francois Mitterrand, the Socialist Party leader, bluntly accused the Government today of making preparations to rig the votes of about a million Frenchmen resident abroad.

He claimed at a press conference that the documents already in the possession of his party made it possible to institute proceedings against officials "guilty of electoral fraud."

Although at this stage documentary evidence published in the press points to only one case of fraud, the affair shows signs of developing into a major political scandal. And, if other cases are proven by the courts, they will cast suspicion on the results of the parliamentary elections last March, showed a locally registered voter was threatened by the advance of the left.

The trouble goes back to an amendment of the electoral law last July, described by M Mitterrand as "pregnant with abuses," which eased the formalities of voting by proxy for Frenchmen resident abroad.

Under the previous system, they could only vote by proxy in those municipalities where they were registered as voters through a locally registered voter. This provoked the complaint that Frenchmen abroad were treated as second class citizens.

Under the new law, they can register as a voter in any municipality with a population of over 30,000 and give their proxy vote to another person already registered in the municipality. But the number of such proxy votes is limited to two per cent of the total number of registered voters.

The publication of the telegram from the French Amb-

sador in Libreville provoked an embarrassed reaction from the Quai d'Orsay, the French Ministry, yesterday, and another statement today, emphasizing that an official mission of investigation had already been sent out to Gabon.

The statement said the ministry was taking a very serious view of the abuse of consular privileges through the issue of blank proxy votes. "Any irregularities that might have occurred in Gabon in no way justify doubt being cast on the neutrality of Foreign Ministry officials", it added.

M Mitterrand said the complete dossier on similar irregularities would be published by the Socialist Party after the closing of electoral registers on December 31.

But he recalled that M Gaston Defferre, the leader of the Socialist parliamentary party, had at the close of the parliamentary session protested against a circular sent by a government party to French residents in the Ivory Coast calling on them to "vote usefully."

They were urged to register in a constituency of Marseilles, and one of Montpellier, where the Socialist candidates were elected by margins of 1,600 and 900 votes respectively, and where postal proxy votes could easily tip the scales in favour of the Government Majority.

The Socialist claim is not that the government parties took the votes of French residents abroad but that this is being done in favour of the majority with the connivance of the French authorities, both abroad and at home.

France buys papers of Napoleon's brother

From Our Own Correspondent Paris, Dec 29

The French National Archives have just acquired the private archives of Joseph Bonaparte, King of Spain and brother of Napoleon, which were seized by British troops in the king's travelling carriage at the battle of Vitoria in 1813.

The archives were sold by the eighth Duke of Wellington to the French National Archives last month after negotiations lasting almost a year, for 1,100,000 francs (about £122,000).

King Joseph's archives have not been hitherto used by historians. They are expected to shed light on the government of Spain under Napoleon, on the relations between Napoleon and his brother, and on the peninsular war from the French standpoint as well as on the Kingdom of Naples, which Joseph Bonaparte ruled until 1808.

The collection consists of 37 box files captured at Vitoria, and a black canteen which contains letters from the king and other dignitaries to Napoleon, intercepted by the British forces or by Spanish insurgents and never read by the addressee. King Joseph took his archives with him when he travelled, regarding Madrid as unsafe.

King Joseph, particularly in a letter dated 1813, is remarkably clear minded about the situation of the French in Spain. He states that if Madrid is lost, the whole edifice of French rule will collapse. There are no difficulties with his marshals, especially Soult.

The collection includes also the rolls of the Grand Army in Spain, and a large number of documents on the financing of French troops. There are no diplomatic papers as King Joseph did not have a diplomacy of his own. Relations with foreign countries were run centrally from Paris.

Belgian gang led by boy of eight

Liège, Dec 29.—Police have arrested a gang of seven boys aged eight to 15 who stole 90,000 francs (about £1,385) worth of toys and clothes.

The gang leader, aged eight, was parading through the town wearing a 27,000 franc fur coat, and carrying two guns. Police said he was torturing his mates and forcing them to steal.—AP.

Equal Opportunities Commission survives criticism from left and right

Solid achievements for women despite gibes

By Annabel Ferriman

Since the Equal Opportunities Commission came into being two years ago yesterday it has been assailed by the left for not doing enough and by the right for existing at all.

Employers see it as the bureaucratic arm of unnecessary legislation and many Conservatives as a huge waste of taxpayers' money. Some would like to kill the 120-headed monster, which this year are up £1.5m.

Critics on the left point out that the new Commission on Racial Equality has initiated as many formal investigations as its first six months as the other commission has in the past two years.

The opportunities commission was set up at the end of 1975 to monitor the equal pay and sex discrimination Acts, to work towards the elimination of discrimination and to promote equality of opportunity between men and women generally.

The main criticism levelled at it is that it has not made enough use of its statutory powers, particularly its power to conduct formal investigations into businesses or organisations suspected of discriminating.

The two investigations it has set up, into Tameside education authority, Greater Manchester, and Electrolux Ltd of Luton, were more or less forced on it by angry parents in the first case and by a High Court judge in the second.

Tameside parents complained of discrimination against girls, because one of the two local primary schools offering places in 1976 was reserved for boys. It took the commission 14 months to return a verdict of "no guilt," on the ground that the Sex Discrimination Act included single-sex schools. The investigators could consider only the mixed grammar school, which that year took more girls than boys.

The investigation, however, showed up the Act's weaknesses and at least one commissioner now feels that the Act needs strengthening on single-sex institutions.

The second investigation was wished on the commission by Mr Justice Phillips, President of the Employment Appeal Tribunal, who suggested it in a series of cases against Electrolux came before him. The result of the Electrolux investigation is awaited.

One investigation and a half in two years is not an impressive record, but it should be remembered that the device of a formal investigation, under which the commissioners can call witnesses and issue non-discrimination notices with the power of law, was new when the Commission was established. The Commission on Racial Equality, in contrast, has been able to benefit from the other commission's experience.

One school of thought among the 15 commissioners, moreover, prefers persuasion to compulsion and believes that steady work behind the scenes can be just as effective as open investigations.

But that idea has waned in the past few months and the commissioners recently decided on four or five investigations a year, starting possibly with a look at credit facilities.

Some of the commission's most valuable work has been in giving legal advice and assistance to people who want to use the two Acts. It has helped 76 cases, including one that went to the House of Lords.

A body of case law has been developed which in many instances has clarified the meaning of the Acts. For example, the case of Mrs Catherine Roberts v the Cleve-

land Area Health Authority established that the Sex Discrimination Act did not make compulsory retirement of women at 60 unlawful, although men do not have to retire until 65.

In monitoring the Acts the commission has found defects. Under the Equal Pay Act a woman cannot bring a case against her employer unless she can be compared with a man doing "like work." That presents a difficulty because so many women do all-female jobs.

The commission is also considering whether to recommend a new clause in the Equal Pay Act outlawing indirect as well as direct discrimination. The Sex Discrimination Act has such a clause, which was used in the case of Price v the Civil Service Department.

Mrs Belinda Price won her claim that the Civil Service recruiting age limit of 28 indirectly discriminated against women because during their twenties women were busy having children.

Such a clause in the Equal Pay Act might affect company rules on pensions and other matters covered by an employee's contract that are not covered by the later Act.

Apart from investigations, legal case work and monitoring the Acts, the commission has submitted evidence to royal commissions on the health service and on income distribution and wealth and is about to submit evidence to the Royal Commission on Legal Services.

It has published proposals for reforming the tax laws, guidance for advertisers, and a contraceptive document on retirement age.

In May the commissioners discussed taxation with the Chancellor of the Exchequer. They have met the Secretary of State for Education and Science several times to discuss dis-

crimination in students' grants in the school curriculum and in education cuts.

The list does not satisfy the commission's critics, however, who feel that the commission is a paper tiger. The National Council for Civil Liberties would like a tougher attitude to employers who are evading the Acts, while Rights of Women, a collective of women lawyers, would like the commission to make more noise, arguing that if its work came more into the public eye more women would make use of the Acts.

Both groups would welcome the appointment of some younger and more radical commissioners. Since the resignation of Mrs Caroline Woodroffe, chairman of the Brook Advisory Centres, there has been no woman commissioner under 40.

Some potential commissioners are discouraged by the commission's location in Manchester, which is frustrating for those living in London. Two commissioners have left this year because they could not attend regularly.

Staffing difficulties have dogged the commission's history. It had to recruit during the first six months without a chief executive and for the first year without a senior legal officer. Some of the permanent staff resented the slowness with which the commissioners moved, while the commissioners were not always happy with the staff's standard of work.

The situation appears to be improving. It is rumoured that the Home Office intends to appoint a tough young woman to replace Mrs Woodroffe; many of the staffing difficulties have been solved and some of the initial distrust between staff and commissioners has disappeared.

Now that its initial difficulties are over, the proper tiger may become an animal of more substance.

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WEST EUROPE

Basques suspected of hijacking second van with explosives

From William Chislett
Madrid, Dec 29.—Basque extremists struck for the second consecutive day today, hijacking a van containing 600lb of explosives, after having yesterday seized one with 2,000lb.

Five armed men forced the driver today to stop on the Sanz de Buitrago road near Gallarta. Most of the explosives were a type of nitroglycerine. The Basque separatist organization, ETA, has not claimed responsibility for either of the robberies, but the hijackings bore the hallmarks of the group, which has recently increased its campaign of violence. Since November, ETA has claimed responsibility for three killings.

It was previously thought that only the military wing of ETA was taking an active part in the violence, but now it seems that its political-military wing is also involved.

ETA is known to be tightly knit, to have few militants, and to be poorly armed. This could explain the seizing of explosives.

The Madrid newspaper *Informaciones*, tonight quotes

Basque sources close to ETA as saying that ETA has started a new phase of its campaign directed against "all those industrial and social centres corrupted by the old regime and which attack the Basque society".

The robberies came at a crucial time in the talks between the Government and Basque politicians over a degree of autonomy. Agreement was reached in November, but the Government claims that the parliamentarians of the ruling Democratic Centre Union in the province of Navarra, are not party to the agreement with the three officially-Basque provinces.

The Government appears to be prepared to grant limited autonomy to the Basque country with a special status for Navarra within it.

Barcelona, Dec 29.—A bomb damaged the law court building in the Barcelona suburb of San Pelayo de Llobregat early today. There were no casualties.

Two small bombs went off outside the central law court in Barcelona, damaging windows. No one has claimed responsibility.—Reuter.

Vote for death penalty

Madrid, Dec 29.—A proposal to abolish the death penalty in Spain was voted down in the Upper House of the Cortes.

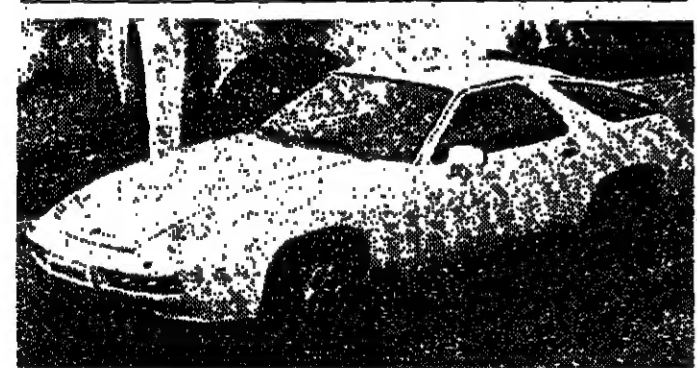
The draft Bill to end capital punishment was defeated by 104 votes to 92 at the year-end session after being introduced by Socialists and Independents.

During the four-hour debate, Señor Landevisio Lavilla Alsina, the Minister of Justice, argued against "barbaric abolition". He said that it could increase the feeling that "some social sectors" had of being "unprotected".—Agence France-Press.

British tourists die in Belgian motorway crash

Antwerp, Dec 29.—Three young Britons were killed last night on the Brussels-Antwerp motorway. Belgian police said their car crashed into a concrete lamp post.

The three were Mrs Julie Burton, of Upton Road, Worthing, Miss Peta Corbett, of Harlands Close, Haywards Heath, Sussex, and Mr Stephen Glover, of Pasture Hill Road, Haywards Heath. All were aged 23. Mrs Burton's husband, Richard, is in hospital with serious injuries.



Porsche 928: first sports car to win the award.

Porsche 928 voted car of the year

By Our Motoring Correspondent

The Porsche 928 has been voted car of the year by an international jury of motoring writers. It is the first time since the creation of the award in 1962 that a sports car has been honoured.

The 928 has an eight-cylinder aluminium engine of 4.5 litres, giving a claimed top speed of 144 mph. Right-hand-drive

versions will be available in Britain early in the summer at a projected price of £18,750.

Princes Rainier of Monaco will present the prize at a ceremony in Monte Carlo on January 26. The choice of car of the year takes into consideration safety, comfort, performance, technical innovation and value for money.

With 261 votes, the 928 was followed by two other West German cars, the BMW 7 Series (231 votes) and the Ford Granada (203). The Chrysler Rambo, a utility vehicle made in France, came fourth, followed by another West German car, the Opel Rekord, and fifth the Japanese Honda Accord sixth. No British cars were eligible for the award this year.

Iran firms ban trade with Italy and Danes

Teheran, Dec 29.—Iranian companies said today they have stopped trading with Denmark and Italy after attacks on Iranian diplomatic missions in both countries.

The semi-official Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Mines said the companies were angered by the leniency with which the attackers were treated. They have imposed an indefinite suspension on purchases from either Italy or Denmark.

Iranian students opposed to the Shah invaded the embassy in Rome this month and were allowed to leave the country after receiving light sentences.

Another group of Iranians invaded the embassy in Copenhagen two weeks ago. They caused some damage and were later jailed for three weeks, but were deported within days to West Germany, France, Austria and Sweden where they are studying.

The chamber accused Italy and Denmark of showing indifference and said: "In order to show their hurt feelings in a practical way, they decided to suspend until further notice their purchases from the two countries."

Danish exports to Iran are worth about \$50m a year, according to the Danish Ambassador in Teheran.—Reuter.

Communists fail to take power in San Marino

San Marino, Dec 29.—San Marino's Communists tonight gave up an attempt to regain power in this tiny mountain state as they are just one parliamentary vote short of forming Western Europe's only Communist Government.

Signor Umberto Ravelli, the party leader, gave a mandate 10 days ago to try to solve a month-long government crisis, was unable to pick up the extra vote by the time his deadline expired this evening.

The joint heads of state, two "captains-regent" who preside over the world's oldest republic, are likely to offer the Socialist Party a chance to form a government early in the new year.

But an election, probably in March, seemed inevitable to end the political stalemate.

Italian crisis

Uli Schmetzer reports on the crisis of growing numbers and rising violence in Italy's universities in *The Times Higher Education Supplement* today.

Michael Rosenblatt reviews a new two-volume catalogue of Turner's paintings, Peter Nokes discusses sincerity in the social sciences, and the issue includes a review of 1977.

OVERSEAS

Oil cutbacks lie behind Mr Carter's tour

From David Cross
Washington, Dec 29

President Carter left here today on the first leg of his second overseas tour since he took office nearly a year ago. His nine-day good-will trip, which will cover 18,000 miles, is taking him first to Poland, then to Iran, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, France and Belgium.

Before leaving Washington under a clear but bitterly cold sky shortly after sunrise, he told reporters outside the White House that in all the places he visited he would be reaffirming "our dedication to peace and our support of justice and of human rights".

Earlier, Mr Carter had gone to some lengths to explain the significance of the tour, which has been criticized in some quarters as something of a waste of time and effort. In an interview with four television network correspondents late last night the President said that discussion of American efforts to reduce its dependence of oil imports would be "a tie that binds the trip together".

"We are the leader of the world," he said. "We are one of the major oil producers. We are the greatest consumer and, until Congress does take action on the energy proposal that I put forward last April that cloud will hang over the determination and leadership qualities of our country."

As might be expected from what announced in his Administration's first year in office, Mr Carter was in a reflective mood when he addressed the nation for a full hour from the Red Room of the White House through his journalist intermediaries.

"If I have achieved anything," he said modestly, "it has been to restore a tone to our nation's life and attitude of what we stand for. Reflecting the hopes and the dreams of the American people was the accomplishment of which I was most proud, he added.

His biggest mistake had, perhaps, been to build public expectations of what was possible too high. "I dashed some people who thought I might act quicker. I underestimated the difficulty and time required for Congress to take action on controversial measures."

Nevertheless, he was hopeful that his complex energy programme would be approved by Congress early in the new year. There had been what he called "private signs" from senators (whose failure to agree to continue limitations on natural gas price rises has been the main stumbling block to progress on the bill) that a compromise was emerging.

In addition to the final approval of his energy programme, his other priorities for the coming year were the ratification of the Panama Canal treaties by the Senate, the tabling of a national health programme late in the year and further improvements in the American economy.

Once again the President expressed his optimism that the United States and the Soviet Union would be able to reach a new agreement to limit strategic arms (the Salt negotiations) in the coming months. "My guess is that 1978 will see us successful and my guess is that when we present it to Congress, the Salt agreement will be approved."



A bomb, apparently planted by Palestinian guerrillas, in the Israeli coastal town of Netanya yesterday killed two people and injured two others. Eight Arabs were held for questioning.

Mr Sadat says peace treaty may be delayed

Continued from page 1

Israeli-Egyptian negotiations, the Jordanian leader had displayed a very constructive attitude," he added.

In response to another question, Mr Carter also repeated his country's readiness to consider guarantees to shore up an Arab-Israeli peace settlement. Some Arab leaders had told him privately that they would accept such a role for the United States.

President Sadat said in Cairo that President Carter's remarks "may delay for some time" the signing of a peace agreement.

"I am disappointed because I should like us to put all our efforts towards ending the suffering in the Middle East and giving a bright future to our next generations," Mr Sadat said in an interview with the American Broadcasting Corporation.

Asked whether in the light of Mr Carter's statement he still believed body settlement of the conflict within two months was possible, the Egyptian leader said: "It may be delayed for some time. But I think that quelling 1978 as a year of decision is not an exaggeration."

Mr Sadat has relied heavily on the support of the Carter Administration to bring the Israelis to the negotiating table and he again emphasized that Egypt like Israel, depended on the United States for security in an eventual peace agreement.

He said that what "surprised" him most about the statement "is the ignoring of the Palestinian question because it is the core and crux of the whole problem. If we are to ignore it we cannot build or establish peace, and that is what we are after. It is not a second disengagement agreement or a partial agreement. It is peace. Peace once and for all."

Mr Muhammad Ibrahim Khalil, the new Egyptian Foreign Minister, repeated his country's demand that any comprehensive peace settlement would have to be based on complete Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories.

He made the assertion after formally receiving Israel's latest peace plan from Mr Hermann Eilts, the United States Ambassador to Egypt.

Government sources said that Mr Kanaani plans to go to Jerusalem on January 14 to participate in the first session of a political committee set up by President Sadat and Mr Begin at their talks last weekend in Israel. Egypt is working on counter-proposals to the Israeli peace plan, they said.

Mr Begin yesterday reassured delegations from Israeli settlements along the coast of the Gulf of Aqaba who were alarmed by the proposal to return the entire Sinai peninsula to Egypt that his peace plan provided for the settlements to remain under Israeli administration and to be defended by Israelis.

Arab leaders from the West Bank gave a chilly reception to the plan to grant them limited self-rule under continuing Israeli military control. They repeated their demands for an independent Palestinian state.

Herr Schmidt, the West German Chancellor, who began an official visit to Egypt yesterday said in Cairo that a peace settlement must be based on Israeli withdrawal from occupied territories and take into account the "legitimate rights of the Palestinians."

In brief

US-Seoul deal on Mr Park

Seoul, Dec 29.—South Korea and the United States are in an agreement tomorrow to allow Mr Yoon Sang-ho, the key figure in the alleged Korean bribery of American congressmen, to go to Washington to give evidence early in the new year, official sources said here. He will be allowed to return to Seoul after testimony.

Mr Park, a wealthy rice broker formerly based in Washington, was alleged to have given gifts and lavish parties to congressmen to influence American policy towards South Korea. Since last August he has refused to return to the United States.

\$26m drug haul

Miami, Dec 29.—About 75 tons of marijuana worth at least \$26m (\$26m) in street value was unloaded from two vessels seized by the United States Coast Guard near the Bahamas. The crew of 21 Colombians were arrested.

Democrat nominee

Washington, Dec 29.—President Carter has recommended that Mr John White, the Deputy Secretary of Agriculture, should be appointed national chairman of the Democratic Party to succeed Mr Ken Curtis, a former governor of Maine.

Freedom mystery

Islamabad, Dec 29.—The Pakistan Government withdrew an announcement about the release of more than 11,000 political prisoners within a few hours after it was issued to the press. No reason was given.

Shot black dies

Port Elizabeth, Dec 29.—Mr Mthunzeli Hushu, aged 28, a black pop group manager, has died after being shot by riot police during disturbances in the New Brighton township near here.

Ford Foundation thinks of 'British Brookings'

From David Walker
Washington

Substantial American investment in studies of how British government policies work is being considered by the Ford Foundation.

Mr George Bundy, chairman of the SSRC, an exacting figure for Ford support of the project, was in London last week. He said that Ford's contribution would depend heavily on enthusiasm for policy studies within Britain.

Disagreement between the SSRC and the independent policy bodies in London, such as the National Institute for Social and Economic Research, have not escaped Mr Bundy. Referring to his experience as Dean of Harvard University, he said: "I have spent a good many years in academic politics and I have seen nothing in Britain that startles me."

In London there is the question of whether the reform of particular institutions is worth the effort. It is foolish to claim there is no country where there are not excellent people thinking about questions of public policy. There is no reason to assume that any particular institution would be a cure-all.

What Ford is doing is to ask what do people, local people, who know all about it, think would be best."

Heated debate on Turkish censure motion

From Our Correspondent
Ankara, Dec 29

The Turkish National Assembly today debated the censure motion against Mr Demirel's Government in a brief but heated session.

Mr Demirel, told the Assembly that he could not say much.

Republican People's Party having managed to limit speeches on the motion to only 20 minutes.

"The RPP's accusations against my Government cover 34 separate points, but I am to be given only 20 minutes to answer," he said. "This leaves me about 35 seconds apiece for such issues as Turkey's foreign currency problems, law and order, foreign policy, etc."

He accused the Social Democratic RPP of being interested in "poaching but coming to power."

Mr Altan Oymen, the Republican party spokesman, admitted that his party was "in a hurry to oust the Government."

The confidence vote will be held on Saturday afternoon.

Japan plans expansion to cut payments surplus

From Peter Hazelhurst
Tokyo, Dec 29

Japan will spend more on defence, foreign aid and public works next year in an attempt to stimulate domestic business and reduce the nation's embarrassing balance of payments surplus.

The expansion programme is contained in a budget plan, approved by a special session of the Cabinet today. The plan was immediately criticized by left-wing opposition groups and praised by leading sections of industry.

General terms budget expenditure will rise by 20 per cent—a step designed to increase economic growth to 7 per cent next year.

The decision to go for expansion has been influenced by pressures and the threats of protectionism from western industrial nations. In particular, the draft budget appears to yield to American demands that Japan should immediately stimulate its economy in order to promote imports.

Domestic considerations have

Gierek plan to allay consumers' discontent and provide a wider choice of goods

From Our Correspondent
Warsaw

Local food shops normally close for Christmas. On average two are pregnant and the other two just bore lazy. Time and again we find the shop closed, with a notice on the door which says: "Closed because of illness. Then we have to walk miles to the next shop, where the queues are twice as long."

This heartfelt complaint from a senior Polish civil servant echoes the feelings of many workers who, after an eight-hour day without a lunch break, leave their offices and factories to face the daily ordeal of shopping.

Forty-two per cent of Poland's work force are women, many of them married and with families, and it is they who bear the brunt of this lack of service. It is one of the many elements of discontent which seethes beneath the surface of Poland's relative prosperity, and one which Mr Gierek, the party leader, is attempting to tackle.

Private ownership of shops with a floor area of up to 50 square yards is to be officially encouraged. Existing state-owned shops of this size will be leased to private owners. As prices are usually strictly pegged, the profit a new owner

Poland turns to private trading

From Our Correspondent
Warsaw

The Government hopes that as well as keeping the shop open, this will encourage the shopkeeper to be more adventurous and increase the range of goods.

The best private owners, the planners believe, will be families with three or four members who can man the shop entirely without employing outside labour.

Priority will be given to people who already have shop space available and to those who are willing to take on a long-term contract. Existing shops will be leased for a lump sum, said to be "very low" for an initial term—the details have still to be published—and then for a further term for a rent based on the estimated turnover.

Shop owners will not have to have any specific educational qualifications, unlike the sons and daughters of farmers who, in order to inherit the family farm under new legislation to encourage private farm ownership, must have a basic agricultural college diploma.

As well as providing a safety valve for the consumers' discontent, now vented mainly on the state, the new plans for shop ownership are aimed at fulfilling a broader function: by introducing a wider range

US agency criticized over lack of silo safety rules

From Our Own Correspondent
Washington, Dec 29

Federal safety and agricultural experts are working out safety guidelines for grain-handling installations, a new device which has exploded recently, killing at least 50 people.

One explanation for the rash of explosions is that grain dust may have been ignited by static electricity in abnormally dry air.

Another explanation is that sparks, generated by the two worn rollers and the grain, have been ruled out.

A spokesman for the Occupational Safety and Health Administration here, which looks after job safety precautions, said his organization and the Department of Agriculture were speeding up efforts to eliminate silo explosions in the wake of the latest week's events.

The agency, which has been working on new safety guidelines for several months, has been criticized for not having its safety and health provisions, such as toilet facilities, and ignoring more serious hazards. In response to these criticisms, Dr Eula Bingham, the recently-appointed head of the organization, has announced that in future his officials would concentrate on major shortcomings, such as poorly marked exits and poorly earthed electrical circuits.

Swede disputes reports of Khmer atrocities

Stockholm, Dec 29.—Mr Jean Christophe Oberg, a Swedish diplomat, who recently spent two days travelling in Cambodia, has challenged the objective reports of refugee atrocities since the Khmer Rouge takeover two and a half years ago.

He told a Swedish television interview last night that during his journey of nearly 100 miles he and his wife saw only four armed people and that Cambodians did not appear to be working under duress.

Mr Oberg, who is the Ambassador to Thailand, was the first Western diplomat to travel overland into Cambodia since Phnom Penh fell to the Communists in April, 1975. In an interview published yesterday by the Stockholm newspaper *Aftonbladet*, he emphasized that he went as a tourist.

Mr Oberg confirmed reports that the Khmer Rouge had emptied the towns, sending people to live and work in the country.

There is no money around in this nation, meaning you cannot buy or sell merchandise as under normal conditions. When I asked my Cambodian friends why they have chosen this way, they claimed there was no other alternative to support their big communities.—AP.

Korchnoi threatens to quit match against Spassky

Belgrade, Dec 29.—Viktor Korchnoi, the self-styled Russian grandmaster, today threatened to withdraw from his world chess championship qualifying match against Boris Spassky.

In a letter to Mr Bozidar Kazic, the umpire, he said he would not resume the match unless spectators were excluded and no demonstration board was in sight of the players. He would exercise his right to postpone the fourteenth game tomorrow but would play on Monday provided his demands were met. If they were not, he would ask the International Chess Federation to move the match from Belgrade.

The Yugoslav organizers are meeting tomorrow to consider the ultimatum. Mr Kazic said of Korchnoi's demands that they "cannot be done."

Korchnoi is leading 7½-5½ in the 20-game match to find a challenger to Anatoly Karpov, the world champion. But he has now lost three games in a row. A grotesque blunder which cost him his queen and the thirteenth game yesterday came

Chile quits talks on claim to Cape Horn islands

From Our Correspondent
Buenos Aires, Dec 29

Talks between Argentina and Chile over an apparent Chilean attempt to claim a 200-mile exclusive economic zone in waters hitherto controlled by Argentina, off Tierra del Fuego and Cape Horn, have abruptly come to a halt amid growing doubts in Buenos Aires that the issue can be amicably settled.

The dispute is the result of the Eagle arbitration award issued by British-appointed international referees last May allocating three small islands in the South Atlantic to Chile. Argentina has made it clear

Chile quits talks on claim to Cape Horn islands

that it will reject the award if it results in any loss of sovereignty. The government has until February 2 to decide.

Vice-Admiral Patricio Carvajal, the Chilean Foreign Minister, flew home early yesterday after a first meeting with Vice-Admiral Oscar Montes, his Argentine counterpart, had been cut short and a second cancelled.

Argentine newspapers today said that the talks had been a virtual failure. They commented, almost unanimously, that no ground for optimism remained.

The Argentine Government regards the problem as its top

Chile quits talks on claim to Cape Horn islands

priority. It has virtually forced Chile to negotiate, sending a stream of military and government envoys to Chile while senior officers here have issued warnings that Argentina will not surrender one inch of its sovereign territory.

At the meeting on Tuesday Vice-Admiral Montes reportedly presented Argentina's final proposal for continuing negotiations.

Vice-Admiral Carvajal then left without further discussion. A source in the Argentine delegation was today quoted as saying: "We are no longer even moderately optimistic."

Argentina's main complaint

Chile quits talks on claim to Cape Horn islands

is that Chile has issued a decree accompanied by an official map, extending the consequences of the award outside the restricted area placed under arbitration, and lodging for the first time a claim to South Atlantic waters.

Argentina's reply is that this is in violation of the 1881 treaty of 1881, which established the division of the Pacific and Atlantic oceans along the Cape Horn meridian, and stated that "Chile may claim no point towards the Atlantic ocean, nor the Argentine Republic towards the Pacific ocean."

SPORTS
BOYCOTT
England
bat at
Saffraz
Pakistan
Three ch
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Today's fixtures
SECOND DIVISION
THIRD DIVISION
FOURTH DIVISION
League Union
Attack of
Surrey's e

SPORT

Cricket

Boycott to captain England and bat at number six

From John Woodcock, Cricket Correspondent, Lahore, Dec. 29.

Mr. David Clark and Mr. Jack Bailey, chairman and secretary respectively of the International Cricket Conference, flew on to India today on their whistle stop tour of the world's Test-playing countries.

Their discussions with the Board of Control for Cricket in Pakistan, held here in Lahore, covered, among other things, the question of appealing against last month's High Court judgment in London that the ban imposed by the ICC on those cricketers now appearing for Pakistan was illegal. This is the latest in a series of attempts to bring about a change in the ICC's policy of "no exchange of views" with the Pakistan players, though Mr. Bailey and Mr. Bailey were quick to point out they were in no way authorised to speak for the ICC.

The Board of Control for Cricket in Pakistan—That being so they were careful not to compromise the English position.

Never a day goes by without one being asked if Pakistanis in Sussex could ever have reappointed Greig as their captain when he is so beholden to the Pakistanis. This is a question which Pakistan had expected, and hoped, from England, nor can it be a help to Messrs Clark and Bailey on their journeying as they are for unanimity among the full member countries of the ICC.

The chances are, I think, that Australia, England, India and New Zealand will be asked to advocate an early truce with Mr. Packer than West Indies. As for the meeting with the Pakistanis it is said to have been conspicuously harmonious. There is a view here that the Pakistanis will be forced either by their own players or by the English to choose their Pakistan players for their visit to England in April unless they can say they will be able to be out of step with all the other Test playing countries.

Sarfaraz hoping to play for Pakistan in second Test

Sarfaraz Nawaz was still in London yesterday, but had not given up hope of playing for Pakistan in the second Test against England on January 2. He said he was a mere four days away. "The game begins on Monday, and I can get away by the 31st. I can still make it," he said. Sarfaraz had the best return in the first Test, of four for 68.

"I am just waiting to hear. When I am called to play, I am at home last night. I said that there was a new move about, but so far I have heard nothing. I am still willing to pay my own fare back for the sake of my country, not the Pakistan Cricket Board."

Meanwhile Sarfaraz was in contact with his English coach, Northamptonshire, who are anxious to know if he is going to play for them in the second Test. Sarfaraz said he was a mere four days away. "The game begins on Monday, and I can get away by the 31st. I can still make it," he said.

Three changes as India try to save Test series

Melbourne, Dec. 29.—India, in an effort to save the series, have made three changes in their team for the third Test match against the Australians at the Melbourne Cricket Ground here tomorrow. Srinivasan, an off-spin bowler, and Brijesh Patel, a batsman, have been left out of the team which will play the second Test in Perth, and Madan Lal, an all-rounder, has been relegated to 12th man. They have been replaced by Krishna Gavhari, Prasanna and Ashok Mendkar.

The Melbourne cricket has soaked up a good deal of rain recently and the Indians have

Today's fixtures

SECOND DIVISION: Fulham v Oldham Athletic (17.30).
THIRD DIVISION: Tranmere Rovers v Walsley (17.30).
FOURTH DIVISION: Stockport County v Bournemouth (17.30).

Rugby Union

Attack of butterfingers hits schoolboys

By Nicholas Keith
Middle Schools 9 Kent Schools 6
A nasty outbreak of butterfingers has occurred at schools in the London area. It is believed the infection will be confined to the ground of UCS Old Boys, Isleworth, where Middlesex students were yesterday by three penalty goals to two. This was a hard-fought but most untidy match which ended in a draw after a grey afternoon. Endeavour walked hand in hand with error and it was impossible to keep count of the number of knock-ons.

The best things about yesterday's game were negative, namely the spilling and tackling by both teams. Middlesex were never behind and just deserved their victory. They dominated the set scrummages and disrupted the Kent pack with some powerful shoves.

At the lineouts Kent gained an advantage mainly through Millard. For Middlesex Henderson,

Surrey's early promise goes unfulfilled

By Gordon Allan
Eastern Counties 18 Surrey 6
Eastern Counties best Surrey by a goal and three tries to a penalty goal and a dropped goal in their schoolboys' rugby match at the North Wanderers ground yesterday. That completes Surrey's Christmas and New Year programme. They beat Kent and Middlesex, Eastern Counties who drew with Kent, play Middlesex at Teddington on Monday.

Surrey looked the likelier side in the early part of the game, winning all the ball they could have wanted and using it well, though not well enough to score. Once Counties had found themselves, however, there was little doubt about the result. Their backs, ably served by Youngs, an international schoolboy scrum half, and Thompson, played

Football



Harry Haslam, to whom Millwall have made a £100,000 offer.

Millwall's offer to Haslam

Luton Town's manager, Harry Haslam, was yesterday considering an offer, believed to be worth nearly £100,000 over five years, to become general manager of Millwall. Mr. Haslam, who has managed Luton for the past five years, has been asked, without success, for an indication from his directors that he would be interested in the offer. He said yesterday, "Millwall approached me yesterday and I turned them down. They have come back with a new offer today for a five-year contract. It was an offer that made me stop and think. I have told them I will think it over and give them a decision within a week."

Mr. Haslam, one of football's most popular characters, faced a crisis two years ago when Luton were nearly £750,000 in debt. But he has cut this by two-thirds and Luton are now in a "strong financial position," most attractive sides by shrewd dealings in the transfer market.

Mr. Haslam said: "I am looking at it as being rushed into things. Millwall have done everything in the proper manner. They asked my views, they let me know what they wanted and I have not been in the picture. He knows exactly what has happened. I have asked him to let me know what they are going to do about it."

Luton will have a board meeting on Tuesday at which the manager's future could be decided. There is a strong possibility that he will leave Luton.

Millwall have been without a manager since Gordon Jago resigned on December 5 to take over the reins of the club. Jago, 42, has been in charge of the club since 1974.

Sporting dismissal

Lisbon, Dec. 29.—Sporting Lisbon, third in the Portuguese first division, today dismissed their manager, Paulo Bento. The club said that Bento had gone to Brazil for a holiday without permission and his absence could threaten Sporting's title for the league championship. —Agence France Press.

All tickets sold

Coverity City announced yesterday that all 35,000 tickets for tomorrow's home match against Luton were sold. They asked United supporters not to travel to Highfield Road unless they had the specially approved terrace voucher, or a seat ticket.

Chelsea sell-out

Chelsea have sold all 17,500 reserved seats for the FA Cup third round match against Liverpool on January 7. A total of 3,000 reserved seats will be available on the day of the match.

Buckley set to follow road to Villa Park

Steve Buckley, the Luton Town left back, is set to follow in the footsteps of Bruce Bick and Chris Nicholl and leave Kenilworth Road for Villa Park. Ronald Saunders, the Aston Villa manager, yesterday lodged a £100,000 bid for the 22-year-old defender, who cost Luton only £2,000 from the Southern League Club, Burton Albion. "I don't want to break up my team," the Luton manager, Billy Haslam, said, "but obviously, in our cash position, financial considerations are important." Mr. Haslam, who nearly went to Huddersfield two years ago, has a "bank overdraft" of £250,000.

Buckley, whose brother, Alvin, plays for Walsall, is a powerful attacking player. Mr. Saunders, who has a £100,000 bid for the defender, said he was "very keen" to sign him. He said he was "very keen" to sign him. He said he was "very keen" to sign him.

Bell continues comeback while Tueart returns

Manchester City's England international, Colin Bell, will continue his comeback in the match with Arsenal at the Road to Villa Park. Dennis Tueart, who has refused a move to the neighbouring Manchester City, is expected to return after being ruled out of the game against Middlesbrough on Tuesday.

Tueart, who scored his third goal of the season against Notts County on Monday, will take over from Roger Pate, City's manager. Tony Book, said he was more than pleased with Tueart's return. He said he was "very keen" to sign him. He said he was "very keen" to sign him.

Andrew Ritchie, Manchester United's 17-year-old striker, could keep his place in the team after the game at Coventry. The local-born player made his first appearance on Monday, taking over from Steve Bruce, who was injured.

The manager, Dave Sexton, said: "I am looking at it as being rushed into things. Millwall have done everything in the proper manner. They asked my views, they let me know what they wanted and I have not been in the picture. He knows exactly what has happened. I have asked him to let me know what they are going to do about it."

Netherlands unlikely to be seeded in World Cup

Rio de Janeiro, Dec. 29.—Joao Havelange, president of the International Football Association (FIFA), said here that he believed Italy would be one of the four seeded teams for the World Cup in June. He confirmed that West Germany, the holders, and Argentina, the hosts, would each head one of the two seeded teams. The other two seeds were likely to be Brazil and Italy.

It had been assumed that the Netherlands would go to West Germany in the 1974 final, but Mr. Havelange said that was not the case. He said he was "very keen" to sign him. He said he was "very keen" to sign him.

Armfield is not surprised

Jimmy Armfield, the manager of Leeds United, said that Nottingham Forest were clearly the team to beat in the match at West Bromwich tomorrow. He said he was "very keen" to sign him. He said he was "very keen" to sign him.

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Swimming



Youth swimmers: How to occupy the holidays has been no problem this week for the parents of England's national youth swimming team, writes Richard Streator.

While the rest of us ponder over the question of how to occupy the holidays, the parents of England's national youth swimming team, writes Richard Streator, are doing rigorous training in readiness for a long season. It starts in three weeks time with three days of competition in Geneva and other foreign trips include meetings in Portugal, Luxembourg and Yugoslavia. Domestic commitments on their programme last until the finals of the British Isles at the end of next November.

Some of the swimmers will earn money in, senior English and British teams for leading events, including the Commonwealth Games at Edmonton in August. Finally, though, the bulk of the youngsters working so hard this week—they swim at least 10 miles a day as well as working in gyms—have their eyes fixed on gaining Olympic places in 1980 in Moscow. The Amateur Swimming Association's thorough approach to the development of young talent is one of the few instances of its sort in English sport, which stands comparison with similar efforts abroad.

Something like 35,000 schoolchildren benefit from the ASA's organization in this area and soon or later have the opportunity to prove their worth if the ability is there. None of the work would be possible without sponsorship and the ASA and the Esso and Esso Ltd now provide the financial backing. The ASA's administration, it will cost Esso about £150,000 over the next three years. A formal heading over their first cheque for £30,000 took place at a luncheon at Crystal Palace yesterday, when Dr A. R. W. Baddley, Esso's executive

Hockey

India beset by complex selection worries

New Delhi, Dec. 29.—India are facing their usual problems over the selection of a hockey team for the Asian Cup tournament in Bombay. The Indian Hockey Federation, who also took knocks in Tuesday's 3-1 win at West Bromwich, will select a team for the tournament. The Indian Hockey Federation, who also took knocks in Tuesday's 3-1 win at West Bromwich, will select a team for the tournament.

There is considerable speculation in Buenos Aires over the make-up of the final line-up. The Indian Hockey Federation, who also took knocks in Tuesday's 3-1 win at West Bromwich, will select a team for the tournament.

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Russians introduce stricter tests to detect steroids

Moscow, Dec. 29.—A top Russian sports official disclosed today that stricter checks have been introduced to prevent Russian athletes, using banned anabolic steroids, from competing in the 1980 Olympic Games. The official, who also took knocks in Tuesday's 3-1 win at West Bromwich, will select a team for the tournament.

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Calendar of world sport for 1978

By Richard Streeton

No crystal ball is needed to predict that sport in 1978 for many people will be dominated by World Cup football in Argentina and the Commonwealth Games in Edmonton, Canada. Or that apartheid and other political issues, together with reverberations from the Packer affair, both in cricket and other games, will continue to intrude upon the sports pages. The struggles between various governing bodies in sport and leading commercial and television interests, can be expected to intensify over the next 12 months.

It is impossible to list these clashes in the calendar below, but they could provide the most significant happenings of all in sport. There seems to be no limit to the money cascading into sport from big business, through sponsorship and other channels. A lot of its influence is beneficial, although it has some murky areas as well, and the dangers tend to get overlooked. As sportsmen seize chances to accrue in a few weeks more than their fathers earned in a lifetime, it behoves administrators to reappraise sources and standards, and to tread warily.

Nobody, of course, should blame individuals for wishing to make the most of their talents, especially now that so much dedication, time and travel is required at the higher levels. Anyone, though, a year ago who prophesied that this week 50 of the world's leading cricketers would be working for a private promoter rather than playing Test matches would have been in danger of being certified. Yet it has happened and that is why athletics for instance should not ignore the potential threat from the Dubai circus. A measure of scepticism is permissible in all the cases that can be cited, but it explains why football will continue to face the possibility of the United States creaming off the best from Europe and South America. Why renewed moves can be expected, sooner or later, for semi-professionalism, perhaps, in rugby union; and, in a lesser sport, why badminton is already in the throes of a wounding struggle.

There was irony attached to the remarks of the All England Club official last week when he said the amount of money tennis players earned was "almost indecent". Tennis led the way along this particular path a few years

ago. What does he think about Muhammad Ali's \$10m title defence planned for 1978 or the £170,000 prize for the winner of the Dubai mile race? Mr Justice Slade said in the course of his Packer judgment that he was surprised a promoter had not moved into cricket earlier. His view, surely, might equally be applied to several other sports. In an age of commercial exploitation, takeovers and contractual opportunities, it would have been naive to assume that sportsmen would escape becoming embroiled.

Turning to more tangible things, the preliminary groups for the World Cup programme in June will be drawn in Buenos Aires on January 14. Scotland for the second successive tournament will be the only British Isles representative in the final stages. The matches will once again pose the challenge between the Old World and the New—whether European sides, not least West Germany, the holders, can win in South America, something that has never happened before.

The Commonwealth Games should bring their full quota of memorable performances and a chance to put them in perspective with those achieved at the African Games in Algiers immediately

beforehand from July 13-18 and the Asian Games in Bangkok from December 9-22. In several sports the British competitors at Edmonton have important engagements in Europe as soon as they return. Any swimmers chosen for the world championships in West Berlin from August 18-23 will not even stay for the closing ceremony in Canada as they return promptly for acclimatization purposes. Athletics competitors must arrive their peak again at the European championships in Prague from August 29 to September 3 and the lawn bowlers rush back for the EBA championships at Worthing from August 14-25.

Golf's world cup returns to the British Isles for the first time since 1960 when it is staged at Waterville from July 6-9 and in tennis the British hard court championships are back on the calendar, though later than they used to be, at Bournemouth from September 18-24. England stages both the men's lacrosse world championships at Stockport from July 1-4 and also the European badminton championships at Preston from April 9-15.



Edmonton: trading post 1795, Klondyke gold rush 1896, Commonwealth Games 1978.

Commonwealth games

- Athletics: Aug 6-12 (Commonwealth Stadium)
Badminton: Aug 4-11 (Alberta University)
Boxing: Aug 4-11 (Coronation Greens)
Boxing: Aug 4-11 (Edmonton Gardens)
Cycling: Aug 4-12 (Argyll Velodrome)
Gymnastics: Aug 6-9 (Coliseum)
Hockey: Aug 3-10 (Strathcona Ranges)
Swimming: Aug 4-9 (Kinsmen Sports Centre)
Weightlifting: Aug 4-8 (Jubilee Auditorium)
Wrestling: Aug 9-11 (Alberta University)

Angling

- July 1: British men's championship, fourth division, River Humber.
July 15: British women's championship, River Nene.
Aug 19: British men's championship, third division, River Witham.
Sept 9: British men's championship, first division, River Avon.
Sept 12: World championships, New Danube, Vienna.
Sept 23: British men's championship, second division, River Trent.

Archery

- April 2: British indoor championships, Colford.
May 27-28: British field championships, Rhondda.
June 10-11: British target championships, Stoneham.
June 28-30: Grand National tournament, Oxford.
Aug 5-6: European target championships, Stoneham.

Athletics

- Jan 27-28: British indoor championships, Colford.
Feb 11: Britain v West Germany, Colford.
Feb 17: East Germany v Britain, Sentenberg.
Mar 1: Britain v Spain, men, Colford.
Mar 4: English cross-country championships, Leeds.
Mar 11-12: European indoor championships, Milan.
Mar 14: Europe v United States, indoors, Milan.
Mar 25: International cross-country championships, Glasgow.
June 10-11: Britain v East Germany, Crystal Palace.
June 23-24: AAA championships, Crystal Palace.
June 24-25: France v Britain, women, France.
July 2: Britain v Bulgaria, women, Crystal Palace.
July 14-16: United Kingdom closed championships, Meadowbank.
Aug 18-19: Women's AAA championships, Crystal Palace.
Aug 29-Sept 3: European championships, Prague.
Sept 9-10: Britain v Soviet Union v Finland, Crystal Palace.
Sept 15: IAC meeting, Crystal Palace.

Badminton

- Jan 3: Denmark v England, Copenhagen.
Jan 4: Sweden v England, Trelleborg.
Jan 19: Scotland v England, Glasgow.
Feb 16: Uber Cup, European zone semi-final, England v Canada or Netherlands, Washington, D.C.
March 15-18: All-England championships, Wembley.
April 9-15: European championships, Preston.
May 13-20: Uber Cup, inter-zone finals, New Zealand.

Basketball

- March 28: European Cup Winners' Cup final.
April 1: English Cup final, men and women, Wembley.
April 6: European Cup final.
April 7 and 14: British Federation Cup final.
Aug 19-Sept 3: Commonwealth championships, in Wales, Scotland and England.
Oct 1-14: World championships, Manila.

Billiards, snooker

- Feb 6-10: Masters snooker tournament, New London Theatre.
Feb 27-March 18: English amateur billiards championship, Middlesbrough.
April 13-15: English amateur snooker championship, All-England final, Blackpool.
April 17-23: World professional snooker championship, Sheffield.

Bobsleigh, toboggan

- Jan 7-8: European four-man bobsleigh championships, Igls.
Jan 14-15: Heston Gold Cup, Cresta Run, St Moritz.
Jan 14-15: European two-man bobsleigh championships, Igls.
Jan 21-22: Curzon Cup, Cresta Run.
Jan 28-29: Brabazon Trophy, Cresta Run.
Feb 1: British toboggan championships, Hammarstrand.
Feb 3: Service Cresta championship.
Feb 4: Morgan Cup, Cresta Run.
Feb 4-5: European toboggan championship, Hammarstrand.
Feb 11: Cresta Grand National.
Feb 11-12: World four-man bobsleigh championship, Lake Placid.

Bowls

- June 9-11: EBA Masters singles tournament, Worthing.
June 19-21: Home internationals, women, Cardiff.
June 22: British Isles championships, women, Cardiff.
July 3-4: British Isles championships, men, Glasgow.
July 5-7: Home internationals, men, Glasgow.
July 7-16: English women's championship, Leamington.
July 14-26: EBA and county championship finals, Worthing.

Boxing

- Jan 11: England v Scotland, Gloucester.
Jan 30: England v France, Cunard Hotel, Las Vegas.
Feb 15: Muhammad Ali v Leon Spinks.
May 5: ABA finals, Wembley.
May 6-20: World amateur championships, Belgrade.

Canoeing

- May 13-14: British open wild water championships.
June 1-4: Slalom international (Trywary).
July 18-19: British sprint championships, Holme Pierrepont.
Aug 10-13: World Championships, Belgrade.
Aug 26-28: British long distance championships.

Croquet

- May 15-20: Peel memorials, Cheltenham.
June 24: Men's and women's championships, Cheltenham.
July 17-22: Open championships, Hurlingham and Roehampton.
Sept 30-Oct 1: All England handicapped finals, Roehampton.

Cycling

- May 28-June 10: Tour of Britain.
June 25: British professional road race championship, Coventry.
June 28-July 23: Tour de France.
July 1: British amateur road race championship, Caistor.
July 1: British women's road race championship, Sutton Bonington.
July 14-18: Scottish milk race championships, Leicestershire.
Aug 8-12: Glasgow-London professional race.
Aug 16-27: World championships, Munich, Cologne and Nürburgring.

Cricket

- Jan 27: Pakistan v England, Hyderabad.
Jan 7-12: Australia v India, Sydney.
Jan 13-17: Packer Australian XI v World XI, Melbourne.
Jan 18-23: Pakistan v England, Karachi.
Jan 27-31: Packer Australian XI v World XI, Perth.
Jan 28-Feb 2: Australia v India, Adelaide.
Feb 9-13: Packer Australian XI v World XI, Sydney.
Feb 10-15: New Zealand v England, Wellington.
Feb 24-March 1: New Zealand v England, Christchurch.
March 4 (or 10): New Zealand v England, Auckland.
May 24: England v Pakistan, Manchester (one day).
May 26: England v Pakistan, Oval (one day).
June 1-6: England v Pakistan, Birmingham.
June 15-20: England v Pakistan, Lord's.
June 29-July 4: England v Pakistan, Leeds.
July 15: England v New Zealand, Scarborough (one day).
July 22: England v New Zealand, Manchester (one day).
July 22: Benson and Hedges Cup final, Lord's.
July 27-Aug 1: England v New Zealand, Oval.
Aug 10-15: England v New Zealand, Nottingham.
Aug 24-29: England v New Zealand, Lord's.
Sept 2: Gillette Cup final, Lord's.

Equestrianism

- April 13-16: Badminton Horse Trials.
May 11-14: Royal Windsor Horse Show.
May 26-29: Embassy show jumping, Hickstead.
May 31-June 3: Royal Bath and West Show.
June 16-18: Benson and Hedges tournament, Cardiff.
July 2-6: Royal Show, Stoneleigh.
July 5-9: World dressage championship, Lord's.
July 13-16: British Jumping Derby, Hickstead.
July 17-23: Royal International Horse Show, Wembley.
Aug 3-6: Nations Cup meeting, Hickstead.
Aug 8-13: Royal Dublin Society show, Dublin.
Aug 15-19: World driving championship, Budapest.
Aug 16-20: World show jumping championship, Aachen.
Aug 25-Sept 8: Wills British championship, Hickstead.
Aug 29-Sept 3: Burghley horse trials, Airedale.
Oct 14-17: World three-day event championship, Lexington, Kentucky.
Oct 27: Horse of the Year show, Wembley.
Dec 14-18: Olympia show.

Fencing

- Feb 4-5: Coronation Cup, men's foil, de Beaumont Centre.
Feb 11-12: C-L de Beaumont Cup, women's foil, de Beaumont Centre.
March 4: Martini epee competition, de Beaumont Centre and Seymour Hall.
April 8-9: Corbie Cup, sabre event, de Beaumont Centre.
April 15-16: British epee championship, de Beaumont Centre.
April 22-23: British foil championship, men, de Beaumont Centre.
April 29-30: British sabre championship, de Beaumont Centre.
April 29-30: British foil championship, women, de Beaumont Centre.
July 13-23: World championships, Hamburg.

Football's leading fixtures

World Cup: Argentina June 1-25

- (Sixteen countries play in four groups)
June 2, 6 and 10: Group one matches at Buenos Aires, Rosario and Cordoba.
June 1, 2, 6 and 10: Group two matches at Buenos Aires, Rosario and Cordoba.
June 3, 7 and 11: Group three matches at Buenos Aires and Mar del Plata.

Other fixtures

- Feb 22: West Germany v England, Munich.
March 18: Football League Cup final, Wembley.
April 19: England v Brazil, Wembley.
April 26: UEFA Cup final, first leg.
May 3: European Cup Winners' Cup final, Paris.
May 6: FA Cup final, Wembley; Scottish Cup final, Glasgow.
May 9: UEFA Cup final, second leg (or May 11).
May 10: European Cup final, Wembley.
May 13: Wales v England, Cardiff; Northern Ireland v Scotland, Belfast.

Golf

- May 20-25: British championships, Leamston, Aken.
Aug 19-28: European championships, Nymbsfield, Stroud.

Golf

- April 6-9: United States Masters, Augusta.
May 6-7: Lytham Trophy, Royal Lytham.
May 19-21: Erasmus trophy, Woodhall Spa.
May 26-29: PGA championship, Royal Birkdale.
June 5-10: British Amateur championship, Troon.
June 6-10: British women's championship, Notts.
June 15-18: United States Open.
July 6-9: World Cup, Waterville, Co Kerry.
July 12-15: Open championship, St Andrews.
July 24-29: English Amateur championship, Royal Birkdale.
July 25-29: British women's strokeplay championship, Foxhills.
Aug 2-6: Colgate women's tournament, Sunningdale.
Aug 3-6: United States PGA championship, Oakmont.
Aug 4-6: World Andrews trophy (Great Britain v Continent), Bremen.
Aug 4-5: Curtis Cup, Apawamis, New York.
Oct 4-7: Dunlop Masters, St Pierre, Chamonix.
Oct 12-15: Colgate matchplay tournament, Wentworth.
Oct 19-22: European Open, London area.

Greyhound racing

- April 8: Grand National, White City.
June 24: Derby, White City.
Sept 4: St Leger, Wembley.

Gymnastics

- Jan 21: Champions Cup, Albert Hall.
Jan 25: Champions All tournament, Wembley.
May 5-7: British men's championships, Coventry.
May 13: British women's championships, venue undecided.
Dec 2-15: British international tournament, venue undecided.

Hockey

- March 4: Wales v England, women, Llanelli.
March 5: County final.
March 11: England v United States, women, Wembley.
March 11-12: International festival, Lord's.
March 19-April 2: World Cup, Buenos Aires.
March 28-30: Five nations tournament, women, Bedford.
April 1: England v Scotland, women, Chesterfield.
April 15: Ireland v England, women, Cork.
April 29-May 1: International tournament, women, Amsterdam.
May 7: National club final.
May 12-15: European club championships, men and women, Barcelona.
Sept 2-10: European Nations Cup, Hanover.

Ice hockey

- March 10-19: World championships, pool C, Las Palmas.
March 16-27: World championships, pool B, Belgrade.
April 26-May 14: World championships, pool A, Prague.

Judo

- April 15: British men's open championships, Crystal Palace.
April 25-26: British men's team championships, Leeds.
May 4-7: European individual championships, Helsinki.

Lacrosse

- Feb 25: Men's senior flag final, Crystal Palace.
March 11: Scotland v England, women, Dunfermline College, Edinburgh.
March 18: England v Wales, women, Hurlingham.
June 24: South v Australia, men (or June 25).
July 1-4: Men's world championships, Stockport.
July 18-Aug 25: English women's Australian tour.
Sept 23: Iroquois Cup, men.

Modern pentathlon

- June 19-23: Home internationals, Crystal Palace.
Aug 10-13: British open championship, Walton-on-Thames.
Aug 12-23: World championships, Jönköping.

Motor cycling

- Feb 18: World trials championship, Rhysder.
April 21-23: World formula 750 world championship, Brands Hatch.
May 4-6: World speedway team championship, Reading.
June 3-9: Isle of Man TT races.
June 18: British 250 moto-cross grand prix, Lochgilphead.
July 2: British 500 moto-cross grand prix, Trobridge.
July 16: European sidecar cross country championship, Newbury.
Aug 5-6: British grand prix, Silverstone.
Sept 2: World individual speedway championship, Wembley.
Sept 23-24: British grand prix d'Endurance, Brands Hatch.

Motor racing

- Jan 15: Argentine GP, Buenos Aires.
Jan 21: Monte Carlo Rally.
Jan 29: Brazilian GP, Rio de Janeiro.
March 4: South African GP, Kyalami.
March 19: International Trophy, Silverstone.
April 2: United States GP West, Long Beach.
May 7: Monaco GP, Monte Carlo.
May 21: Belgian GP, Zolder.
June 4: Spanish GP, Jarama.
June 10-11: Le Mans.
June 18: Swedish GP, Anderstorp.
July 2: French GP, Paul Ricard.
July 16: British GP, Brands Hatch.
July 30: German GP, Hockenheim.
Aug 13: Austrian GP, Zeltweg.
Aug 27: Dutch GP, Zandvoort.
Sept 10: Italian GP, Monza.
Oct 1: United States GP, Watkins Glen (or Oct 8).
Nov 19-23: RAC rally.

Netball

- Jan 25: England v Wales, Coventry (or 26).
Feb 18: England v Northern Ireland, Bristol.
March 18: Wales v England, Cardiff.
Nov 4: Wembley international.

Orienteering

- March 24-27: Jan Kjellström Trophy, Sheffield.
April 30: British relay championships, North-east England.
June 11: British championships, Fife.

Polo

- May 21-29: National 14-goal championship, Cirencester.
June 4-11: Queen's Cup, Windsor.
June 18-25: Royal Windsor Cup, Windsor.
July 1-16: Cowdray Park Gold Cup, Cowdray.
July 15-16: Whitbread Cup, Woolmers Park.
July 18-30: Cowdray Park Challenge Cup, Cowdray.
July 25: WIP Coronation Cup, Windsor.
Aug 6: National team trophy, Cirencester.

Racing

- Feb 11: Schweppes Gold Trophy, hurdle, Newbury.
March 15: Champion Hurdle, Cheltenham.
March 16: Gold Cup, Cheltenham.
April 1: Grand National, Liverpool.
April 8: Lincoln Handicap, Doncaster.
May 4: 1,000 Guineas, Newmarket.
May 6: 2,000 Guineas, Newmarket.
Feb 4: French Derby, Chantilly.
June 7: Derby, Epsom.
June 10: Oaks, Epsom.
June 20-23: Royal Ascot.
June 24: Irish Derby, the Curragh (or 25).
July 8: Eclipse Stakes, Sandown Park.
July 23: King George VI and Queen Elizabeth Diamond Stakes, Ascot.
July 25-29: Goodwood meeting.
Aug 22: Benson and Hedges Gold Cup, York.
Sept 16: St Leger Stakes, Doncaster.
Sept 22: Ayr Gold Cup.
Oct 1: Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe, Longchamp.
Oct 7: Cambridgeshire Handicap, Newmarket.
Oct 21: Champion Stakes, Caseworkit Handicap, Newmarket.
Oct 28: William Hill Futurity Stakes, Doncaster.
Nov 25: Hennessy Gold Cup, Newbury.
Dec 26: King George VI Stakes, Kempton Park.

Rackets, real tennis

- Feb 5-12: Amateur rackets singles championship, Queen's Club.
April 13-16: Bathurst Cup real tennis, Paris.
April 23-30: Amateur real tennis singles championship, Queen's Club.
May 13-21: Henry Leaf real tennis trophy finals, Queen's Club.

Rowing

- March 18: Head of the River, Mortlake to Putney.
March 25: University Boat Race (230).
May 24-27: Oxford Summer Eights (provisional).
July 7-10: Cambridge May Races (provisional).
June 24-25: Nottinghamshire International, Nottingham.
June 29-July 2: Henley Royal Regatta.
July 15-16: British championships, Nottingham.
July 21: Doggett's Coat and Badge, London Bridge to Chelsea (11.30).
Oct 30-Nov 5: Men's and women's world championships, New Zealand.

Rugby League

- Jan 28: Players competition, final.
Feb 19: Wales v England, Swansea.
March 5: France v England.
May 13: Challenge Cup final, Wembley.
May 20: Premiership final.

Rugby Union

- Jan 18: England v Australia, 19 group, Twickenham.
Jan 21: France v England, Paris; Ireland v Scotland, Dublin.
Feb 4: England v Wales, Twickenham; Scotland v France, Murrayfield.
Feb 18: France v Ireland, Paris; Wales v Scotland, Cardiff.
March 4: Scotland v England, Murrayfield; Ireland v Wales, Dublin.
March 8: UAU final, Twickenham.
March 18: England v Ireland, Twickenham; Wales v France, Cardiff.
April 15: John Player Cup final, Twickenham.
April 29: Middlesex Sevens, Twickenham.
June 11: Australia v Wales, Brisbane.
June 17: Australia v Wales, Sydney.
Oct 14: England v Argentina, Twickenham.
Oct-Dec: All Blacks tour of British Isles.
Dec 12: Oxford v Cambridge, Twickenham.

Swimming

- March 8-11: National short course championships, Cheltenham.
March 25-27: Coca-Cola meeting, Leeds.
April 8-9: Six nations contest, Dortmund.
April 21-22: Britain v East Germany v Sweden, Crystal Palace.
May 26-29: ASA championships, Blackpool.
May 26-28: Four nations water polo, Crystal Palace.
July 8-9: International Diving Union Cup, Linz.
July 26-30: European junior championships, Florence.
Aug 14-19: National age group competitions, Coventry.
Aug 18-28: World championships, West Berlin.
Nov 25: Inter-county knockout competition final, Nuneaton.

Skating

- Jan 28-29: European speed championships, men, Oslo.
Jan 31-Feb 4: European figure championships, Strasbourg.
Feb 11-12: World sprint championships, Lake Placid.
Feb 25-26: World speed championships, men, Göteborg.
March 4-5: World speed championships, women, Helsinki.
March 7-11: World figure championships, Ottawa.
Nov 5-6: Richmond Trophy, Richmond.
Nov 18: British ice dance championship, Nottingham.
Nov 25-29: British figure championships, Richmond.

Squash rackets

- Jan 13-15: Home internationals, Warrington.
Jan 25-Feb 6: British amateur championships, Wembley.
Feb 17-19: SRPA closed championships, Grantham.
Feb 24-March 2: British women's open championships, Wembley.
March 15-19: European amateur team championships, men and women, Amsterdam.
March 28-April 8: British open championships, Wembley.

Shooting

- May 18-20: British open clay pigeon championships, London.
July 10-12: NRA meeting, Bilsley.
Aug 11-12: British open skeet championships, Bedford.
Aug 12-14: British small-bore rifle championships, Bilsley.
Aug 24-28: British pistol championship, Bilsley.
Sept 24-Oct 5: World small-bore championship, South Korea.

Table tennis

- Jan 6: England v China, Middlesbrough.
Jan 10: England v China, Edmonton.
Jan 12-14: English open championships, Brighton.
Feb 16-18: English closed championships, Woking.
March 10-19: European championships, Duisburg.
April 6: England v Netherlands, Plymouth.

Tennis

- Jan 2-8: Masters tournament, New York.
Mar 29-April 2: Virginia Slims final, Oakland.
May 8-14: WCT singles final, Dallas.
May 22-26: Italian championships, Rome.
May 29-June 11: French championships, Paris.
June 12-18: John Player tournament, Birmingham.
June 19-24: Colgate women's tournament, Eastbourne; Rawlings tournament, Queen's Club.
June 26-July 8: Wimbledon championships.
Aug 28-Sept 10: United States championships, New York.
Sept 18-24: British hard court championships, Bournemouth.
Nov 24: Wightman Cup, London.
Nov 13-19: Benson and Hedges tournament, London.
Nov 27-Dec 3: Federation Cup, Melbourne.
Dec 18-28: Australian championships, Melbourne.

Water skiing

- June 3-4: Old Spice international, Rustip.
June 24: British Grand Prix, Burnham-on-Sea.
July 15-16: British championships, Torquay Water Park.

Weightlifting

- March 4: British championships, Manchester.
May 1: Britain v China, Bristol.
June 7-19: European championships, Havrovo, Czechoslovakia.
Sept 29-Oct 9: World championships, Téhéran.

Wrestling

- April 8: English championships, Bexley.
April 21-23: European Greco-Roman championships, Oslo.
May 5-7: European free-style championships, Sofia.
May 27: British championships, Glasgow.
June 3: British sambo championships, Huddersfield or Stroud.
Sept 3-6: World Greco-Roman championships, Mexico City.
Sept 7-10: World free-style championships, Mexico City.

Yachting

- June 3-9: Weymouth Olympic classes.
June 3: Round Ireland race starts, Falmouth.
July 9-14: Edward Heath and James Cook series, Channel/Cowes.
July 22-28: Kerser world championship, Graham Water.
July 28-29: Enterprise world championship, Painsaton.
July 29-Aug 6: Cowes Week.
Aug 13-26: Half Ton Cup world championship, Poole.

Foreign Report

Cottages to let with all mod cons—official

Last summer a colleague rented a Devon cottage for his family holiday. It was advertised as having a bedroom, a sitting room, and a kitchen. Only when he arrived did he discover that all three were in fact in the same small space. The family gave up the holiday after one uncomfortable night, and returned home. They had no redress. The consumer's usual protections do not apply when doing business with private individuals.

Of course most people hiring holiday cottages in Britain this summer will be fully satisfied. But the fact remains that the trade is unregulated, and that charges and standards vary enormously. Agencies take large mark-ups on rentals, and holiday homes belonging to organizations with reputations to maintain, such as the National Trust and Landmark Trust, have to be booked years rather than months ahead although they are by no means cheap.

They do things differently in France. In Britain not even the hotels are officially inspected or classified. In France, where there is a passion for placing things in categories, even the country holiday cottages are officially graded.

Last year 500 British families called at the French Government Tourist Office (178 Piccadilly) to book holidays in *Gîtes de France*—privately owned holiday homes and modernized to set standards with the aid of government improvement grants and low-cost loans. This year the service is being expanded and bookings will also be taken by post.

The *Gîtes* (the word means the form, or nest, of a hare) are administered by the *Fédération Nationale des Gîtes de France*, a para-governmental, non-profit-making organization, responsible for developing the self-catering rural holiday market in France.

In return for the financial assistance they get in modernizing and equipping what are usually redundant cottages or farm buildings, gîte owners have to sign and abide by a strict charter. The provisions cover the standards of comfort, equipment and amenities. No gîte, for example, is without an internal, flushing, ventilated toilet.

The owners are also obliged to ensure that they, or their representatives, are available close at hand to welcome guests, deal with any problems, and provide information.

Gîtes are inspected by the departmental authorities before being accepted on to the lists, and are officially graded. They do not get stars, like hotels, but, appropriately for an essentially rural phenomenon, *épis*, or ears of corn. One *épis* signifies basic accommodation conforming to the minimum standards. Three is the deluxe class, which may be a timbered apartment in an ancient chateau.

Prices are determined in consultation with the departmental authorities. Once fixed they cannot be increased by more than 10 per cent a year. The departmental sections of the *Fédération* handling bookings take a modest amount, between 5 and 10 per cent of the total rent, for their services. Tax concessions which the owners enjoy depend upon their observing the charter rules.

The result is that, especially with the pound strengthening against the franc, *gîtes* represent an exceptional holiday bargain. An average gîte for five, with two bedrooms, living room, kitchen and bathroom, costs £30 to £45 a week, according to season. Prices can be as low as £25 a week in the off-season.

I stayed at a delightful gîte in the Manche last summer, and took the opportunity to inspect several others. Our own cottage, with three double bedrooms and a huge living-dining room with all the iron utensils required for cooking over blazing wood fires in the open *cheminée* (and a modern electric cooker in the modern kitchen) cost 370 francs in June or September, 470 in July or August.

In the standard of equipment and decoration it surpassed anything I have seen in self-catering accommodation in Britain, but it rated only two *épis*—because the bathroom was on the ground floor, rather than from the bedrooms, and the exterior rather plain.

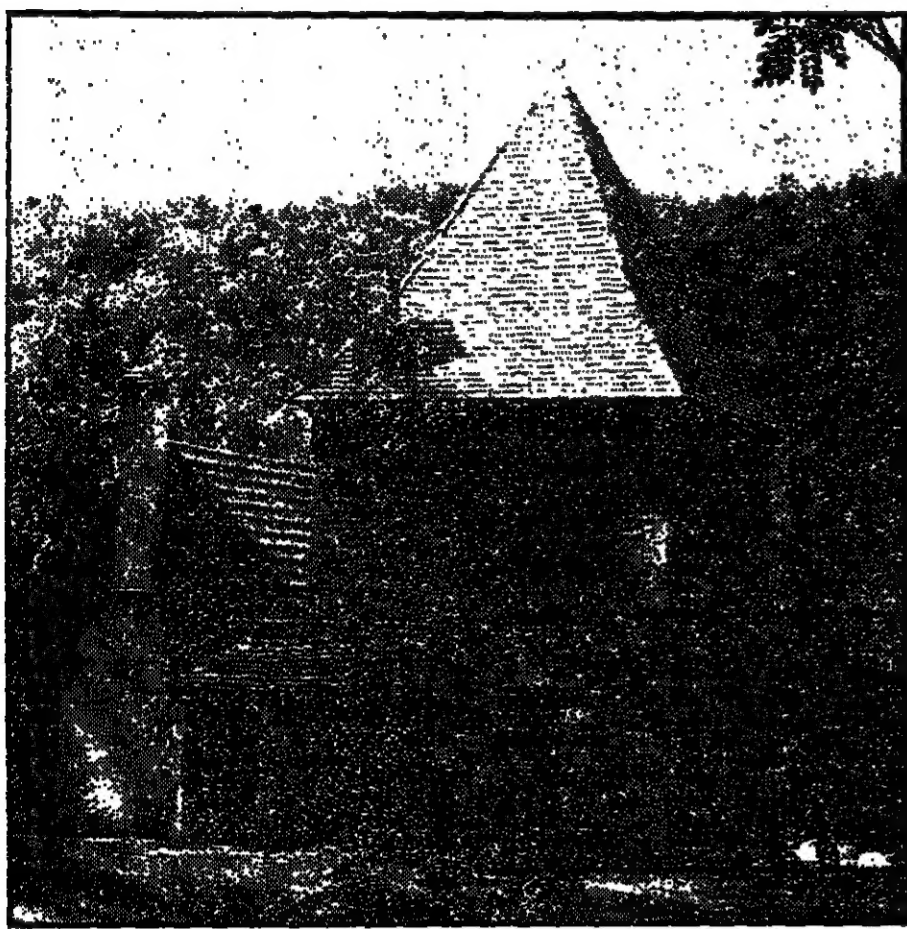
On the other hand we had farmyard animals at the backdoor, and neighbouring farmers kept us supplied with fresh picked strawberries, corn-fed chicken, and fresh cream. We had two coats within easy driving distance.

There are 25,000 *gîtes* in France all told. There are even *gîtes* in the French West Indies, Martinique and Guadeloupe, as well as a couple of hundred in Corsica. The department with the largest number is Savoy, followed by Ardèche, Isère, Finistère, Aude and Dordogne.

To book a gîte it is necessary to join the British section of the *Fédération*. Membership costs £3.50, and includes a copy of the *French Farm and Village Holiday Guide* listing and illustrating 1,000 *gîtes*, and otherwise obtainable from major bookshops at £1.95, or direct from Euro States Publishing, 14 Sun Street, EC2M 2QA. The British section's address is 178 Piccadilly, London W1V 0AL.

The French Travel Service have also introduced package holidays using gîte accommodation, from £42 per person per week including cross-Channel ferry fares. Full details of these are available from British Rail travel centres.

Robin Young
Consumer Affairs Correspondent



Argentina keeps its grip on Perón's wife

On Christmas Eve, María Estela Perón, who so pathetically misruled Argentina for 21 months, began her twenty-second month of imprisonment. No other deposed Argentine president this century has been detained for so long. But Señora Perón, who is trapped as much by her past and the shadow of her late husband as by the will of her military jailers, faces the likelihood of further unhappy years of detention ahead.

With a recent suicide attempt behind her, the fragile ex-cabinet girl and ex-president is confined to a wired-off compound inside the Azopardo navy base 200 miles from Buenos Aires. If some reports can be credited, she would happily enter a Spanish convent and forget about Argentina and Peronism.

For a woman of 46, bereft of political gifts, who, enslaving herself to Juan Domingo Perón nearly two decades ago, became a prisoner of his politics, then of the presidency and now of her military overthrowers, escapism is an understandable sentiment.

But it is not likely to be satisfied, unless humanitarian considerations intervene. The military Junta will not easily forget Señora Perón's stubbornness, hysterics and

devotion to Perón. During Argentina's darkest hour, she revealed only brief flashes of political common sense, and the Junta will hardly risk her rallying Peronism from Spanish exile, as Perón did for many years.

The reported hopes of some Peronists that she may soon be set free in Argentina appear even dreamier. For without her, the Junta can hope that Peronism, with its anti-economic statism, anti-economic nationalism and egocentric populism, will sink into oblivion. For 30 years it has been Argentina's main political force, a sibling of fascist ideologies of the 1930s which has long helped make Argentina ungovernable.

Whatever the discredit and disintegration brought upon the movement by its disastrous 1973-76 government, it has a history of remarkable resilience. The military interest must be to avert its further resurrection if they are to build the promised "new republic" along modern and democratic lines.

It is ominous for Señora Perón's hopes of freedom that the military plan to rule another 10 years to achieve this. It is equally ominous that the eventual destiny of now-leaderless Peronist votes, and con-

trol of Peronist unions, will largely decide Argentina's future. The struggle to grab them will shape its politics for years, and Señora Perón will be either a pawn or a queen in the game.

There are populists enough in today's Argentina eager to inherit Perón's con-man, though, lacking his schooling in Mussolini's Italy. Prominent generals can already be tentatively identified playing to the masses and the Peronist unions, hindering President Jorge Rafael Videla's efforts to bury the past and modernize the country. Even Admiral Emilio Massera, Junta member and navy commander, is often identified among them, particularly as the chief critic of austere economic policies designed to restore the economy, establish a free market system and sweep away built-in fiefdoms.

Señora Perón's magic name may one day drag her into this emerging power game. Indeed, the Peronist movement is not dead yet, and whenever its adherents gather her name is still enthusiastically chorused. "If she definitely drops the bunch who surrounded her in office we will still recognize her as our leader," declares Señor Juan José Señora, a leader of a Yacaré labour organization.

But at present the Junta wants her sentenced on corruption charges in the civil courts, partly because this could grant some *post facto* legitimacy to her overthrow. They also need her evidence in similar cases against her former colleagues. The seven cases against Señora Perón include alleged embezzlement of millions of dollars of public money. Some appear quite flimsy, but the possible sentences range up to eight years jail and it may be two years before any judgments are reached. Until then she is being detained by court order. Her early release is unlikely on technical grounds. President Videla cannot legally pardon her before sentencing, so the judges would have to quash each case in unison to make it possible.

Even that would not guarantee Señora Perón's freedom. She is simultaneously held under the Junta's "Act of Institutional Responsibility" by which she and about 50 others have lost their property, freedom and political rights for allegedly culpable irresponsibility in office.

This may all seem harsh on a small town dancing girl who married a big-time ex-dictator and then did her incompetent best when he returned to power, died, and left her as president. But if the penalties Argentina's rulers pay are to commensurate with the disasters they bring, Señora Perón might well consider herself comfortably off in her three-room officer's bungalow at the Azopardo base. She has her poodle, her Spanish maid and her garden. Her solitary friend, Señora Cuca de Marco, wife of an ex-minister, comes to stay at weekends and reports her well cared for, in good health and reasonable cheer, writing poetry and the story of her life with Perón.

Yet the bit part actress who tried bravely to understand the dead master in an impossible role is an unfortunate surrogate for Perón's own guilt. Perón was indeed happy in the hour of his death, for his legacy was a violently disintegrating movement and a country wrecked by its greatest moment of crisis. If ever a ruler deserved posthumous impeachment, for designating an inexperienced woman to succeed him as president at such a time, it was he rather than his ill-equipped successor.

Andrew Tarnowski



WILL EUROPE GREET THE NEW YEAR WITH AN ECONOMIC HANGOVER?

In next Tuesday's issue Europa looks to the future with a review of the past year, and assesses the economic legacy of 1977. A firm footing for movement forward or just more shifting sand?

In addition, Europa stirs the troubled waters of the European partners' policies on fishing rights and also pursues big fish of a different kind with a report on the European businessman's growing interest in tax havens.

Opportunities for future business in China are revealed, and Jacqueline Grapin, editor of Europa, considers Canada's increasing inclination to flex economic muscles independently of the U.S.

Published on the first Tuesday of every month, Europa deals with economic, financial and industrial affairs and allied social questions, as they affect the total European business community.

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A force in the Mediterranean

"There's potential for many ambiguous situations with some things less than a major war."

This is how NATO's southern headquarters at Naples characterizes its command area. Of the conspicuous region on the other side of the Mediterranean where a weighty element of NATO, the American Sixth Fleet, is also a considerable presence, mostly unseen but constantly felt, for Israel and her Arab neighbours.

If formal American security guarantees may ultimately be extended to Israel in the context of a Middle Eastern arrangement, the Sixth Fleet will give them instant credibility. The Arabs in general have, indeed, always regarded it as evidence of a commitment implicit but no less firm.

Awareness of the credibility aspect is heightened by a visit to the "USS America", 78,500 tons, 5,000 men—2,100 of them in the air wing—which was cruising off Crete with her 90 jet aircraft on day and night training flights.

She is currently one of two such US carriers that are a permanent feature among the 15 or so combatant ships on attachment with the Sixth Fleet and serve to give it a conspicuous lead in a political show of force.

The description "completely equipped air bases" is hardly an exaggeration, and as one officer put it, unlike land bases overseas, the carriers are not dependent on the political temperament of foreign governments.

That night, as returning fighters came howling out of the inky blackness, the only indication of sea level was a red semaphore winking out

somewhere on the port beam— a message from one of the five escorting destroyers.

If precisely aimed visual signals have not been entirely superseded by electronic systems, one of the reasons for this had been clearly visible until dusk two or three miles behind: a Russian Riga-class frigate that had been trailing the carrier all day.

The Soviet Mediterranean squadron—with at least a score of combatant vessels drawn from both Northern and Black Sea fleets—has a flotilla of intelligence-collecting craft dogging the wake of major United States units.

"Our little tails," they are called by the Americans who do not reciprocate this type of intelligence surveillance. They rely instead on intensive photo reconnaissance by Crusaders, one of the eight different types of jet aircraft on the "USS America", and her companion carrier.

The perpetual Soviet eye was even useful to Washington in the 1967 Middle East war when President Nasser, mindful always of the importance for Israel of the American naval force, accused fleet planes of attacking his forces in the Sinai. Moscow knew the charge to be incorrect.

The Soviet missile cruisers of the Moscow and Krasnaya classes have helicopters, but are disadvantaged in wide-ranging air cover. While the Russians do have limited facilities at Tartus, in Syria, and access to repair yards in Yugoslavia, their being deprived of the use of Alexandria as from April, 1976, means they have since had nothing comparable to the services available to the Americans at Naples and other Italian ports.

Because of this current

logistic deficiency, their main units are probably less active in promoting Moscow's political aims than would otherwise be the case. They make much use of fixed anchorages in international waters off North Africa and Crete and rely heavily on auxiliary vessels.

Albania having fallen out with Peking, the Naples HQ is alert for any hint of a Tirana-Moscow rapprochement enabling the Soviet navy to regain its former submarine base there. They are also on the look out for any move whereby it could avail itself of north African ports, not least Tobruk harbour. The Russian do, of course, visit some of these ports and the small Libyan navy has Soviet equipment, including a submarine, but as yet there is no overt sign of a significantly closer association.

A major concern at Naples is what happens after Tito in Yugoslavia, whose continued independence is regarded as primordial, from the naval aspect as well. Among its other preoccupations are the Greek-Turkish dispute in the Aegean, the importance of ensuring the benevolent neutrality of Spain and the efforts of the British phasing out.

The narrow entrances at each end of the Mediterranean are the steadily-improving satellite surveillance of its 970,000 square miles by both super powers, inhibits maximum deployment of the submarine fleets to which the Soviets in particular have allocated a leading strategic and tactical role.

The "America's" officers brush off any suggestions that the carriers could in some circumstances be like sitting ducks, their confidence a reflec-

tion of the fact that 30 per cent of the navy's budget goes on anti-submarine measures.

"We can be a very elusive target, moving 300 miles overnight," said the officer. "We are highly manoeuvrable and can travel 30 knots plus."

"We have surface-to-air and surface-to-surface missiles, the latest in electronic counter measures, our airborne early warning can detect and assess sound enough for successful interception in any weather."

Our aircraft, patrolling out 400 to 500 miles, can locate any submarine and stay right on top. We can hit anything coming at us in the air or in the sea. We have reason to feel comfortable living on board here."

Specialization of tasks on the ship is such that many of the men on board are hardly conscious of the sea or of the difference between day and night.

Not so for the flight deck squads in their array of red, yellow and white jackets, with crash-helmets and walkie-talkies. Beards, moustaches and long hair are commonplace; they have something of the look of Wild West air about them, each busy with his own responsibility.

This was what most surprised a novice observer who visited the ship. He couldn't get over the contrast with their ships. "But these men know their jobs and are given the latitude to get on with them independently. The majority are under the age of 20, a few years younger than the pilots. The captain, 50, is a former carrier pilot who was a prisoner of war in North Vietnam for six years."

Alan McGregor

Food Report

Pat forecast

The Consumers' Association said immediately after Christmas that if certain things happened shoppers would have to pay about 62p a pound for butter late in 1978. It was a very precise forecast, but it was about as useful and reliable as a prediction of a white Christmas.

The association wanted to illustrate the folly of paying farmers to produce more milk, thereby pushing up prices of dairy goods like butter, when milk products were already so expensive that the BEC was unable to sell much of what it was making.

The association based its forecast on three things. First, it foresaw a rise of 61p a pound on butter in Britain when farm support prices were raised on New Year's Day at the end of the transitional period of the country's membership of the Community. It was safe with this figure since it had been calculated by the Government a month earlier.

The association then calculated that the rise in farm prices throughout the EEC which the European Commission has already proposed for 1978 would add 1p a pound on

butter prices in Britain. It went on to say that the rise proposed by the commission for this country alone through a devaluation of the green pound would add a further 2p.

"By the time all the increases are passed on," the association concluded, "probably by next autumn, and if the special United Kingdom subsidy remains the same, British shoppers will then have to pay around 62p a pound."

Each of these three assumptions is highly questionable. First, rises in farm prices proposed by the commission for the whole EEC are almost never accepted by the Council of Community Farm Ministers, which has the final say about them.

Second, the devaluations of the green pound which it suggests are almost never accepted by the British Government,

which has the final say about them. Thirdly, the association assumes that the special subsidy paid in this country alone will stay the same.

Its value for most of 1978 has still to be decided, and the British Government has already used the green pound as a bargaining weapon, to gain particular concessions like a butter subsidy. It is therefore unwise for the association to assume that the Government will devalue the green pound as the commission wants and that the subsidy will be unchanged.

It is just as likely that the Community will refuse to extend the subsidy in which case Britain will refuse to devalue the green pound. Butter might then cost 72p a pound late next year.

High Clayton

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THE TIMES

Review of the Year 1977



Two men who gambled for peace :
President Anwar Sadat of Egypt (right) and the Israeli
Prime Minister, Mr Menachem Begin



Three superstars, who were mourned
by millions in 1977: left, Elvis Presley; top right Maria Callas;
bottom right, Bing Crosby

Peace on earth—almost

1977 came as near to being a year without war as we can reasonably expect to see as near, probably, as any in the 25-year reign of Victoria's great-great-granddaughter. For months on end it would have been quite justifiable to have closed the gates of the Temple of Janus, if there had been anything left of them after two millennia of conflict.

It would be going too far to say that birds of calm sat brooding on the charmed waves where ever one looked. If they had tried it in the Gulf of Thailand, for instance, the eggs would soon have been snatched by ravenous hands. Small boats were dotted all over the mild ocean, full of refugees from Vietnam and Cambodia, and the Gulf was far from a haven of neighbouring countries and ignored by passing ships anxious to avoid the nuisance of finding a refuge for them. Most of the worst conflict was in Africa: border raids and counter-raids in Rhodesia, battles between insurgents and Phrygian bowmen in Zaïre, and the slow disintegration of the Ethiopian empire. The latter developed in the summer into a guerrilla campaign, which was probably the most serious conflict of the year—much to the embarrassment of the Russians, who had armed both sides.

The most extraordinary event of 1977 was certainly the appearance of President Sadat at a kosher state banquet in Jerusalem. No one could have guessed when Mr Begin's intransigent party came to power in Israel that the year would see the two leaders embracing, speaking of sacred missions and declaring that anything was negotiable. The moral effect was immense: the people of both countries broke into incredulous rejoicing, while some of Mr Sadat's allies called for his overthrow or assassination. It was only natural that some of the euphoria should be dashed when the harder bargaining began in Cairo.

The year abounded in images of harmony, most of which it was wise to take with a grain of salt. In Rhodesia Mr Smith declared himself in favour of one man, one vote; in Spain, La Pastoreira took her seat in a democratic parliament (an event that proved more evocative than congruous); 10,000 political prisoners were released in Indonesia; India took its chance and replaced Queen Stork with King Log. In Ulster the rate of civilian casualties fell to a quarter of the rate of recent years, and the province was judged stable enough for the Queen to make a jubilee visit.

trovery at Westminster Hall by speaking favourably of the United Kingdom, receiving gifts of a skull-decked trophy in Papua and a teddy-bear in Portsmouth, or winning the Oaks at six to one.

The celebrations took place mainly in weather appropriately reminiscent of the Coronation. It was a dreary summer after two such superlative ones. But between the two Coronations, the Queen and the incomparable Red Rum won his third Grand National; Virginia Wade won the Wimbledon ladies' title with much brilliance and a little luck; and the beanbag-woman champion driver after having been smashed practically to bits a year before. In cricket, it is hard to say whether the play at the wicket or in the field was better. But the day of the event, the gates for Mr Packer's circuit proved scarcely larger than those for Mr Justice Slade's. Much satisfaction was felt when England regained the Ashes, a feat which satisfied the nation's vanity in the years of the Queen's birth and Coronation (although some sympathy was expressed for the Queen of Australia, whose cricketers had made the three corresponding centuries of her career by losing the Ashes that time).

The world of music was plagued by the caprices of trade unions and the muse. The former disrupted works ranging from *The Trojans* to *Rock Follies* (a much more serious matter), as well as some of the year's innumerable new operas. It may be because the muse had been so much importuned by Tippett, Davenport, Blais, Kodolowicz and Mass, Days and who else, that Richard Rodney Bennett over *The Christians* and cruelly teased the Master of the Queen's Music over his unfinished Jubilee symphony and Mass.

In industrial relations more generally the charmed quiet of the past two years began to break up even before the pact between government and TUC over wages expired in July. But the arguments are still unresolved, the gap between the size of demands and of settlements has never been so wide, and conflicting currents within groups of workers never so apparent. The Bullock report, which we have already mentioned in the political ascendancy of the unions, exposed confusion in their ranks about what their true role should be. It was appropriate that the dominating trade dispute of the year, the violent and paradoxical Gravelly affair, should have raised a guiding question about the union's traditional position of the unionist with wages only a marginal issue.

Self-doubt spread on the left (and the right) as it began to seem that the Government's policies might actually be beginning to work. Inflation fell, the pound rose, the gold reserves became almost an embarrassment; even unemployment (though well above the million) at least stopped rising. After many defeats in the Commons, the Government secured its

by raffling motor cars and the like, but there was every prospect that the outflow would gather pace.

The merry feckless British made an almost Dickensian contrast with the thrifty Germans, deeply demoralized by mild inflation and a gang of terrorists far smaller than our IRA (though more vicious). The British government means to kill themselves in a pique over the failure of the Mogadishu hijack. Other unidentified terrorists apparently tried to hijack a Malaysian airliner and perished with 100 passengers. In a bad year for plane crashes, by far the worst was the crash of a 747, a Boeing jumbo jet, a catastrophe in which 582 died. These events cast a shadow which could not be dispelled by Mr Laker's overthrow of the fares cartel, Concorde's admission to New York or the success of the British summer holiday in which effective mail-powered flight was first achieved.

Any attempt to identify the year as one of universal peace through sea and land must limit itself strictly to hostilities between the United Nations oppressor States and private *anyhow* communist States at routine levels. The Soviet Union busily persecuted citizens trying to discover whether it was fulfilling its Helsinki Convention obligations. In the case of Britain, there was a successful prosecution for blasphemy, though the authorities did not on this occasion go so far as to burn the victim's ears. After the great oppression of the 1950s, the city's inhabitants seem to have set doggedly about burning down as much of it as they could reach. In Bengal, starvation and the loss of millions of lives in clothes. President Amin surprised himself by allowing the Archbishop of Uganda and two cabinet ministers to be taken to the South African police allowed to suffer violent deaths of detainees to suffer violent death in captivity. The inquest on one, Steve Biko,

formed the prelude to a general election in which the minority qualified to vote resoundingly endorsed the zeal and loyalty shown in the case by South Africa's police, coroners and medical men.

It was a year of deaths that recalled mortality with a shock to generations not yet used to thinking of themselves as in the front line: Tony Crosland, Robert Kennedy, Martin Luther King, Lyndon B. Johnson, and the Kennedy family. Some successors and challengers were equally apt to make those in their prime feel as old as Moses: David Owen, Peter Jay, Percy Austen, Charlie Chapin, who died with impeccable timing on Christmas Day, 1967, and the great, great-grandfather of the youngest and the oldest, Peter Mark Andrew Phillips, the first in his immediate family of a generation. Alonghered new (and the cheerful ease with which the remnant grip of 1953 was shed) was the great grandchild, a mother in 1977 was one of the year's most felicitous triumphs of time).

We record the following among the deaths in 1977 :

Hia Beatrude Makarios III,
President of the Cypriot
Republic. Fakhraddin Ali
Abdullah, President of India.
Yusuf Ibrahim, President of
Arabian Yemen. M. Ngwadi,
Minister of Congo. Sir Gen-
eral Kefauzi Banta, Ethiopian Head
of state. A. L. Adun, Dowager
Queen. Alexander Quesada,
Minister of Jordan. Earl of
Inchinnin, Olave, Lady Buxton.
D. Rijedic, Dr. Bruce,
Sir R. A. Bustamante, Prince
Charles-Isaac de Monaco. S. J.
Shalovskyak, Miss W. Coats.
Viscount Cobham, A. Cocker, R.
Gordon, P. Cor, M. I.
Vucuravustar, Princess Elena of
Rumania, Dr. M. Eghal, Prof. I.
Kardir, Sir D. Erskine, Hon-
orable Goun, J. Grieston, A. si-
fajiri, E. Hambro, Sir M. Haw-
kins, K. Jumbarti, M. Keizer, J.
Lugmann, Gen. A. Liska,
Madame I. Livinov, M. Abdul-
lathif, Duke of Manchester.
Princess Gladys, Duchess of Marl-
borough, V. A. Massembe-
mbwa, Dr. B. Moore, Mwami
Mwabumba IV, Lt.-Gen Lord
Morrie, Lord Parmoor, Prof. J.
Zaslavsky, G. Powers, C. Prin-
ce Gen. Gen. A. Rayski, Count
von Kosen, Lord Rowland
Lord Rushmore, Prof. W.
Thermachorn, Dr. X. von
Schuschnig, Lady Spencer-
Hutchinson, Miss E. Trenchard,
Mrs I. Underhill, Prince
Alfred of Bourbon-Parma, Mar-
shal A. Vassilevsky, Gen. J.
Elasko.

Holders of the Victoria and George Crosses: Col. J. Barrett VC, S. J. Bent VC, V. Holloway GC, H. W. Lewis VC, T.

Airway GC, Capt E. K. Myles
C. O. Soudley GC, Capt R. B.
Tannard VC, Sq Ldr A. H.
Hollamache GC, J. V. Towse
C. H. Tandy VC, J. C.
Michael VC.

Armed Forces : Maj-Gen H.
Alexander, Air Vice Mar-
shal Sir B. Ball, Sir F.
Jenssen, Lt-Col R.C.B.
Muckley, Admiral Sir H. Bur-
rough, Maj-Gen S. A. Cooke,
Air-Vice Marshal Sir T. Cord-
ingley, Lt-Gen Sir R. Craddock,
Sir Marshal W. A. Curtis, Maj-
Gen R. B. Dawson, Wing Comd-

Charles, P. Desmond, Miss F.
Fiedler, D. Finley, H. Fischer

N. Fowler, Miss L. Puchovsky
N. Gabo, E. Garner, E. Gillooli
I. Godfrey, R. Goscianny, A. F.
Graham, J. H. Green, D. S.
Hislop, R. K. Kirk, L. Lamb, E.
Julian, C. Lombardo, W. M.
McMillan, Bon. Miss D. Bremer,
W. Malczynski, Miss E.
Muniz, Lady Meade-Fosterston
D. Parks, Dr. A. Scott
F. Milne, Sir Rex de Nassau
K. Kivell, I. Nash, U. Nimptsch
P. Nordoff, Miss G. Penn, D. Pen-
Reid-Henry, R. A. Richardson, L.
H. Rudland, P. Schoeffler, L. S.
C. Smith, Dr. A. Stoen
T. Thompson, E. Terner, T. Un-
derhill, K. Vaughan, L. Wal-
den, Miss C. Williams, R.
Edwards, A. Gedich, T. Schip-
opera, R. McGrath, Dr. G.
S. Jones, Miss J. Scheane
Commerce and Industry : J.
Beazley, Mme J. Bollinger, J.
I. Charrington, Sir G. Christo-
phor, M. Clowes, E. Cole, P.
Constrail, L. Donnell, J.
Gibson, Mr. R. Fleming, J.
W. Frame, Sir W. Garrett, R.
Gilbey, Sir J. Gilmore, P.
Golding, Lord Hollenden, Sir
E. James, Prof H. Johnson, E.
J. Jones, Mrs. J. McGinnis
L. S. Miller, Dr. McGarry
Manly, Sir E. Miller, J. D.
Miller, J.
R. B. Mountain, Maj-Gen G. E.
Prior-Palmer, C. Rivington, D.
R. S. R. S. S. S. S. S. S.
Sandford, J. Saenger, Sir
J. Spamp, Dr. H. M. Schleyer
A. Stakhanov, Sir R. Summers
Maj E. G. Thomson, R. Threlk-
A. Valentine, H.
Wheatcroft, R. Whitcomb, Sir
R. Rootes, J. L. Davies
Law: Sir C. Ames, G. Ring, W.
J. Brown, Miss S. Campbell
Judge T. Clark, F. C. Cobb,
Sir A. C. C. C. C. C. C.
M. McNeill, Sir A. McNeill
Prof F. Moran, A. D. N.
Nabarro, Viscount Radcliffe

Sir W. Stoble, Sir R. Tredgold
Sir L. Yeaman.
Literature, Education, and
Scholarship : Mrs R. Adam, D.
Aberdeen, Dr J. P. V. D. Bals

J. L. Barrow, Miss P. Bentley,
 Roy, H. E. Birkbeck, Dr. E.
 Bloch, Miss W. Brightman, A.
 D. Browne, Miss D. Burchell,
 J. Cain, J. D. Carr, Prof. E. Carus,
 J. Wilson, Dr. F. Le Gros Clarke,
 J. Cullen, Mrs. E. Darush,
 J. Dewar, T. Dery, Prof. M.
 Dewar, A. Dru, Dr. H.
 E. Ewing, Dame J. Evans,
 R. Feilding, R. Fadden, E. Fadden,
 J. K. Fether, Prof. F. T. H.
 Fletcher, M. P. Fabian, Mrs.
 Gandy, W. Gerbardin, A. N. N.
 Gilkies, Miss Y. Ginzburg,
 Dr. Glog, S. Gordon, E. Green,
 Dr. L. Wyn Griffith, H. Habesh,
 Hale, Prof. F. Halms, Prof.
 M. Harbottle, P. Henderson,

Petrie, Prof G. Bean, L. Untermyer, Lady Namier, Prof I

Gordon.
Medicine : Dame V. Ashworth.
Sir A. Bell, Dr. E. A. Reunert.
Sir A. B. Dromi, Sir J. E. H. B. H.
Clayre, Sir A. Coates. Lord
Coburn of Birkenshead, Dr C.
Comins, Dr. H. V. Dicks, Mrs E.
Dismdale, Dr C. Dukes, M. F.
conner, L. Ferguson, Dr T. F.
Dr. H. B. R. H. H. H. H. H.
Humphreys, Dr T. Jefferson, Dr
H. Joudes, Prof. M. L. Keen.
Dr A. S. Kerr, H. Levy, Prof. A.
Luria, Dr J. G. McCorrie, P.
MacKintosh, Prof. W. Macdonald.
Prof. J. N. Mills, Prof. J. M.
Prof. C. Moir, Lord Moran, Dr
R. H. A. Pallard, Dr G. Simms, Dr
Patey, Prof. A. T. Phillips.
Dr K. Porter, Prof. D. D. Reid.
Dr. F. I. Ridley, Sir J. Ritchie, Sir
A. A. Rowlands, Dr P. Scott, Dr
R. E. P. W. Shackleton, Dr W. B.
J. Summerskill, Sir A. Thomson.
Dr. W. G. Wilson, Prof. R. W.
Dr W. G. Wiser, C. Wilcock.
Prof G. T. G. Wilson, Prof. Sir B.
Robson, Sir H. Seddow.
Politics, Government and Local
Service : Earl of Avon, Lt-Col.
Sir A. B. B. B. B. B. B. B. B.
Howe, Sir A. B. B. B. B. B. B.
Bourne, T. Bradstock, Sir K.
Bradley, Lord Brayley, Sir P.
Broadbent, Sir K. Cantlie, J.
Cliff, Lord Crookshank, Sir J.
Crosland, Lord Cresswell, Sir J.
Cunningham-Reid, Sir E. Den
King, Sir R. Denham-Smith, Sir
B. Edwards, Lord Farrington
Lord Faulkner, Sir W.
Gordon, Lord Gifford, Col.
Gordon, Goshen, Col. H. Gough
R. Guizer, Sir W. Hart, W. H.
Heywood, Lord Hutton o
Upton, C. Hobbie, Sir B.
Kene, Sir P. Kirk, Col. G.
Lacey, Lord Lester, Sir J.
Lyon, Cdr Sir J. Maidment, Sir
R. Manktelow, Dame L. Mann
King, Lord Merthyr, Sir J.

Miller, Mrs. M. Miller, Sir E.
Perkins, T. S. Pilling, Lord
Poppewell, Duke of Portland
Sir A. Randall, Brig. Sir R.
Rayner, Sir L. Ropner, J.

Scholes, Lord Sker, Sir R.
 Stevenson, Sir H. Steward, Sir
 B. Thomas, Sir C. Thornton
 Kemsley, Sir D. Wetherston
 Sir C. Wigram, Sir A. Wilson
 Sir J. Wrigley, P. Kerrigan
 Lord Hensley, L. Turner
 J. de la Roche, Black, Col. B. L.
 J. de la Roche, Black, Col. B. L.
 Brittain, E. Brizier, W. Brogden
 A. Campbell, Sir W. Carr
 Casagrande, Miss A. Christchurch
 N. D. Cliff, P. Cuzler, J.
 Davies, E. Dodds, W. N. Ewer
 G. V. Ferguson, F. Fytton
 Miss J. Gordon, H. Gould, D.
 Greenslade, G. R. Hardacre, R.
 H. Hall, D. Holden, R. Jebb, E.
 A. Kennard, F. I. Ker, C. T.

MacInness, Rt. Rev. C. A. Martin, Rev. J. B. Middlebrook, Rt.

Rev A. H. Morris, Rt Rev S. H.
Price, Sister D. Raphael, Rev
S. Roberts, Rt Rev G.
Knox, Rev C. Storr, Rev
W. Wand, Dr W. Baines,
Rt Rev L. E. Woolmer, Gan W.
Kitchev, Rt Rev H. E. Ash-
down.

Science and Technology: Lord
Adrian R. Beale, Dr M. Bram-
lette, Dr W. von Braun, J.
Brinkley, J. Britten, Dr W.
Bullerwell, R. E. Burnett, Prof
J. R. Burgess, R. B. Burns,
Chick, A. V. Cleaver, L. Anto-
levsky, B. H. Colquhoun, Dr
L. F. Cooling, H. F. Cronin, E.
Cunningham. Prof P. V.
Edmur, A. Fage, Lt-Col L. A.
Gibson, Sir J. Garner, Dr
Goldman, Prof J. Hewson,
Prof J. V. Hill, Prof H. E.
Hirston, Prof D. W. Holder, S.
Hyushind, Dr M. Ingram, G. V.
Jacka, R. Jensen, Prof J. K. N.
Jones, Prof W. R. D. Jones, Dr
P. E. Kabacoff, Dr J. Keen-
muidt, Prof W. Klyne, Prof R.
Kompfner, M. Langley, D. Law-
son, Dr B. Lee, Prof J. E. Lit-
tlewood, Prof R. Ludlam, Dr S.
Marshall, Dr B. Morse, Prof
R. Morton, Prof W. Arctia,
Sir A. Musto, J. Ogier, Prof W.
Parker, R. Ratliff, J. A. Rob-
bie, Prof A. Robertson, Captain
H. "J." Shaw, Sir A. Sims, Dr
J. Smithells, E. Stephenson,
Dr R. Telford, Prof W. A.
Telfer, Prof M. Thomas, Prof
F. C. Thompson, Prof J. M.
Thompson, Sir I. Thomson, Sir
G. Thornton, Dr V. Timakov,
Prof D. A. Walsh, Dr D. E.
Weston, Prof J. E. Williams,
Sir F. Williams, K. Williams,
Prof H. E. Street, Prof A.
Erdely.

Sport: J. Baksi, J. Beresford,
J. Collins, D. Eager, A.
Edwards, A. Fage, P. A. Gibb,
A. Gibson, J. H. Hargrave,

D. Haddon, P. Houseman, R. James, R. Jarden, N. Khan, Miss K. Krantzcke, Miss C. Leitch, F. MacCarthy, A. Masie, B. Merritt, J. O'Connor, C.

Pace, M. Parkes, P. Perez, R. Perks, R. Poincotelet, T. Pryce, E. Shipton, J. Sullivan, Cdr D. B. Vaughan, Lady Z. Wernher, N. Williams.

Theatre, Cinema and Broadcasting: E. Anderson, Miss S. Ashley, Miss G. Astor, Miss R. Arkinson, Sir M. Balcan, Miss J. Barbour, D. Barclay, S. Boyd, J. Brandon-Thomas, Miss Brickman, Miss G. Brooks, S. Buhot, Miss E. Caelele, R. Carlson, Miss Carson, E. Chapman, E. Chitty, H.-G. Closser, R. Cortes, Miss J. Crawford, E. Crosby, D. Davies, A. Dennis, M. Eason, A. Eggleston, V. Finch, E. Fitz-enevill, V.

Diary of the year

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Diary of the year

January

3. The International Monetary Fund approved Britain's application for a £2,300m loan (see also the 10th and 24th).

5. An unofficial estimate stated that the earthquake in northern China on July 28 last year killed 655,237 people.

6. A manifesto, signed by Czechoslovak dissidents, calling for the restoration of human rights, and announcing the formation of an association entitled "Charter 77" was smuggled into Germany, on the 31st the Czech Government declared the Charter to be illegal (see also Feb 11).

Mr Roy Jenkins took over from Mr Francisco-Xavier Ortoli as President of the European Commission.

Mr L. Tyler and his family, held by Egyptian guerrillas since May last year, were released.

7. French police arrested Abou Daud, leader of the Black September movement of Munich 1972; he was released on the 11th and flown to Algeria.

Minimum lending rate (144 on 24/12/76) was cut to 14 per cent; during the year it fell 16 more times to 5 per cent on Oct 14; on Nov 25 it was increased to 7 per cent.

10. The Bank of International Settlements arranged a £175m standby safeguard for sterling.

14. Thomas William Hughes, a prisoner who escaped while being taken to Chesham, was shot dead by police in Chesham; he had taken his own life and killed three adults and a child; a report in March criticized the prison staff and police.

17. At Salt Lake City, Utah, Gary Gilmour, at his own request was executed by a firing squad for murder in July, 1976.

18. Eighty people were killed when a bridge crashed on a train near Sydney.

19. Authority in the Church, issued by the Anglican and Roman Catholic theological commission, stated that agreement had been reached on the doctrine of authority.

20. Mr Jimmy Carter was inaugurated as 39th President of the United States of America.

24. Britain negotiated a loan of £873m from 13 British, West German and American banks to aid economic recovery.

26. A majority in the Bullock Committee report recommended worker-directors in the 738 companies employing 2,000 or more workers.

27. In its judgment in the South African mail boycott case, the Court of Appeal upheld the right of an individual to a remedy in law when the Attorney General has refused his consent for a reselection; on July 26, the House of Lords reversed the judgment.

The European Convention on the Repression of Terrorism was signed by 17 member countries of the Council of Europe.

A first edition of Melville's *The Whale* (Moby Dick) fetched a record price for fiction of £30,813 at auction in New York.

30. A guerrilla gang kidnapped nearly 400 pupils from a mission school in south-west Rhodesia and took them into Swaziland; on February 6 parents persuaded 51 to return.

Mme Francois-Claude, held hostage by Chad rebels for nearly three years, was released.

for reason of national security.

After a reported plot to overthrow President Amin, the Anglican Archbishop of Uganda, Dr Janani Luwero, was arrested; he and two Cabinet ministers were reported by the Ugandan government to have been killed in a road accident in an attempt to escape the report was condemned throughout the world.

17. In Moscow Dr Andrei Sakharov received a personal letter from President Carter.

18. The General Synod of the Church of England approved a statement on Papal primacy.

Six thousand British Leyland toolroom workers voted to stay on their unofficial strike; the company had lost £12m in two weeks; by March 2, 28,000 workers had been laid off and the Government announced that there would be no more state cash unless the strike ended; it did so on March 20.

19. Mr Anthony Crosland died suddenly, on Feb 21 he was succeeded by David Owen.

21. Representatives of the Argentine Commission for Human Rights claimed that in the 11-month-old regime of General Videla, 2,300 people had been killed and between 20,000-30,000 had disappeared.

23. In Tanzania, refugees from Uganda reported mass killings there of the Langi and Acholi tribes.

27. About 1,000 Roman Catholic supporters of the Latin Mass occupied a church in Paris (see also June 29).

March

2. The Government conceded defeat over the ship repairing sector; the aircraft and shipbuilding nationalisation Bill.

4. An earthquake in the Pined region of Romania killed 1,541 people and injured 1,000.

6. The Government refused to buy the Earl of Rosebery's Montrose House for £3m; on May 18, house and contents were auctioned for £389,523.

7. An American motion on the arrest of dissidents in Russia was withdrawn in the UN Human Rights Commission in Geneva; the following day the motion was strongly criticised in the regime in China.

8. In Dublin eight SAS soldiers were acquitted of deliberately crossing the Irish border in May 1976.

13. A French mercenary was reported to have marched into Zaïre from Angola (see also April 10).

15. Dr Anatoly Shcharanov, a Jewish dissident was seized by the KGB.

16. Kamel Jumblatt, the Lebanese leftist leader was shot dead; more than 200 revenge killings were later reported.

18. President Nguabi of Congo was assassinated; Mr Massemba-Débat, a former president was executed as being one of the murderers; on April 3, Colonel Yombe Opango was elected head of state.

21. Mrs Gandhi lost her seat in the Indian elections and Congress Party had many losses; the Congress Party lost its "no confidence" in the Commons; it was renewed on July 28 (see also Sept 27).

24. The Aanan Committee report on broadcasting was published.

25. A Pan Am Boeing 747 collided with a KLM 747 on taking off at Tenerife airport, killing 582 people.

The National Enterprise Board announced a loan to British Leyland (see also July 25 and Sept 29).

29. Budget day: Tax concessions worth a 4½ per cent pay increase—some conditional on union acceptance of wage restraint from Aug 1; dearer cigarettes; dearer petrol (revoked on May 9) (see also July 15 and Oct 26).

31. In the Staffordshire by-election, Mr Andrew Mackay (27) turned Mr Roy Jenkins (77) 19,223 majority into a Conservative majority of 1,949.

April

Red Rum created a record in winning the Grand National for the third time.

4. Twenty-two Libyan officers were executed for an anti-Gaddafi plot in 1975.

5. A new Political Honours Secretary was appointed—Lord Shackleton and Carr of Hadley (see also May 27).

26. The Anglo-American consular team on a consultation for Rhodesia began discussions with Rhodesian officials (see also Sept 1).

In Geneva 100 nations voted to give prisoner-of-war status to captured guerrillas.

27. A letter in *The Times* from Lady Sumnerskill revived the controversy on Sir Harold Wilson's Resignation Honours List.

28. A fire in a Kentucky night club killed 158 people.

30. Rhodesian troops penetrated over 50 miles into Mozambique and killed 32 guerrillas.

June

1. Speed limits were raised: 60 to 70 mph, dual roads; 50 to 60 mph, single.

2. With the killing of three policemen in Co Tyrone, the death roll of the force since 1969 rose to 103.

5. After a 10-week dispute, electricians at British Steel, Port Talbot works, returned to work.

July

1. The South-East Asian Treaty (Seato) signed by shipbuilders Corporation came into operation.

President Carter cancelled B1 bomber production.

Britain placed a unilateral ban on herring fishing in the North Sea.

Miss Virginia Wade won the ladies' singles at Wimbledon.

5. In Pakistan, General Muhammad Zia-ul-Haq overthrew the elected government in a bloodless coup.

7. The Royal Commission on the Press reported, recommending safeguards for press freedom and reform of the Press Council.

8. The Queen led the fleet of her jubilee tour of the United Kingdom in Glasgow.

18. A report by the International Commission of Jurists estimated that during the first two years of the first President Amin's rule, 80,000 to 90,000 were killed.

21. Manchester United beat Liverpool 2-1 to win the FA Cup; Liverpool began their League championship on the 25th Liverpool won the European Cup.

23. Moluccan terrorists held hostages in two stages—105 children in Rotterdam, Holland, and 50 people in a hijacked train near Groningen; the children were allowed to leave on the 27th; the English and Dutch marines stormed the train and school; six terrorists and two hostages were killed in the train assault.

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August

1. Lord Ryder resigned as chairman of the NEB and was succeeded by Mr Leslie Murphy.

3. Review of Overseas Representation: a report by Sir Kenneth Berrill and Central Policy Review Staff (the "think tank") suggested closing at least 55 overseas establishments.

8. Archbishop Makarios, President of Cyprus, died; he was succeeded on the 31st by Mr Spyros Kyprianou.

6. Eleven people were killed when a bomb exploded in Salisbury; the bomber was a full-time member of the Black Panther Party, Zazu, of being responsible.

8. Ethiopia stated that its conflict with Somalia in the desert was now a full-scale war; the Organization of African Unity (OAU) repudiated Somali claims to the region.

9. Two white missionaries were shot dead by a British soldier in SW Rhodesia, bringing the total of white RC missionaries killed in nine months to 13.

10. A Roman Catholic youth was shot dead by a British soldier in the killing of a soldier followed; on the 12th, a marine was killed.

10. The Queen made a two-day visit to Ireland.

13. A National Front march in Lewisham, London, brought a clash with left-wing elements; in particular, the Socialist Workers Party; at least 78 people were injured and 270 policemen and 202 were arrested; in Birmingham on the 15th, 117 were arrested; police were injured and a police station was besieged.

From Thailand came reports of attacks by Khmer Rouge troops on the border of Cambodia.

The British Lions lost the series against the All Blacks by three matches to one.

17. English cricketers, Ashes, in a black political deadline in Africa was found dead in his cell, the second such occurrence in two weeks.

18. Herbert Kappler (70) escaped from Rome's military hospital; in consequence an Italian-German summit meeting was called off.

16. Heavy storms and floods swept southern England and the Midlands.

18. Labour held Birmingham by-election by the by-election.

20. Sixteen black farm workers were shot dead or burnt by guerrillas near the Rhodesia-Mozambique border.

21. The military leader of Ethiopia called for general mobilization; both sides suffered heavy casualties in the battle for Dire Dawa.

In Lebanon, the first clashes since March between Christians and Muslims left a death roll of 17.

25. The Scarman report on the Grunwick dispute blamed both sides; it recommended that company should offer to re-employ any strikers; the company rejected the report.

28. Despite the efforts of the organizers, the Norfolk Hill, London, carnival was marred by violence.

29. Anglo-American Rhodesia talks, meeting in Lusaka, ended; John Vorster in Pretoria, failed to obtain South Africa's support for their proposals.

September

1. The Government's White Paper for a settlement in Rhodesia dominated Field Marshal Lord Carver as Resident Commissioner-designate; Mr Smith described the Anglo-American proposals as "insane".

The World Psychiatric Association condemned the Soviet Union for abusing psychiatry for political purposes.

3. Mr Bhutto, former Prime Minister of Pakistan was arrested in connection with a murder in 1974; he was sent to prison on the 6th; he was released on December 9.

5. Near Cologne, Dr Hans Martin Schleyer was kidnapped, and four people killed by terrorists; his body was found in eastern France on October 19.

Among the bequests in the will (gross £124,000) of Lord Britton was £100,000 to establish a charitable fund.

6. Kala-azar (black fever) killed about 4,000 people in eastern India.

7. The USA and Panama signed a new Panama Canal treaty.

8. Ethiopia severed diplomatic relations with the UK.

9. Parts of the Criminal Law Act, 1977, including more severe penalties for football hooliganism, came into force.

10. A 19-year-old Canadian, set a new record for the non-stop two-way Channel swim—19hrs 55min.

9. Fifteen men were publicly executed in Kampala for an alleged plot against President Amin.

12. Dr Waldheim presented Mr Brezhnev with the UN's peace medal.

13. Steve Biko, a black leader in South Africa died in detention; on Dec 2, at the inquest, the security police were cleared of any blame for his death; a verdict of "natural causes" was returned in London and Washington.

13. In Massachusetts, the police released the 50-year-old file on the Sacco-Vanzetti case.

14. Britain had its first trade mission since July 1972—£14m.

15. A House of Commons report on the Civil Service (the first since 1874) recommended that its powers should be subject to checks.

16. Nine people were killed when a bus hijacked by guerrillas exploded near Bulawayo.

17. Dr Conor Cruise O'Brien contended that fewer than half the combined population of N Ireland and the Republic favoured a united country; he resigned from the Irish Parliamentary Labour Party.

19. A pay claim strike by 9,000 British Leyland workers began.

20. A report by Professor Julius Gendreau maintained that higher education was under attack by Marxist thinking.

The Taylor Committee's (1975) report recommended more parent-power in schools.

21. President Carter's Budget Director, Mr Lance, resigned following attacks on his conduct as a banker.

25. Mr F. Laker's first Skytrain service to New York began.

26. Soviet English paintings valued at £500,000 were sent to the nation by Dr D. McDonald.

The Pope celebrated his 80th birthday.

27. A Liberal Party stated that its pact with Labour was dependent on the Government supporting proportional representation on direct elections to the European Parliament (see also Dec 2).

28. A Japan Air Lines DC-8 was hijacked off Bombay by Japanese Red Army terrorists; at Dacca the 144 hostages were released in return for nine guerrillas.

29. British Leyland received a loan of £50m from the NEB.

Spain approved the granting of home rule to Catalonia.

The Committee of Public Accounts criticized the waste of public money.

A single bottle of wine—Chateau Lafite, 1806, was sold for £8,200.

30. On 30th July, Paris, police stormed a hijacked Caravelle; a passenger was killed.

Soviet vessels were banned from fishing in the EEC's North Sea grounds.

Guerrillas murdered a six-month-old child in Rhodesia; the third white child in four months.

October

1. Pele finally retired.

4. "Back us or sack us" was the Prime Minister's challenge at the Labour Party conference in Belgrade. 35 nations began a review of the Helsinki agreement of 1975 (see also Nov 4).

5. Mr Senatus Costello, leader of the Irish Republican Socialist Party was shot dead in Dublin.

The 1977 Nobel Prize for Literature was awarded to Señor Vicente Aleixandre.

7. A new Soviet 147-article constitution replaced that of Stalin of 1936.

8. Sheikh Makhouf (1828-1898), a Lebanese hermit, was proclaimed a saint.

Unofficial reports from Uganda stated that Mr Robert Scraman, the British-born engineer, had been beaten to death.

A son (Peter Mark Andrew) was born to Princess Anne; he became the fifth in line to the throne.

16. British Leyland was divided into: Leyland Cars; Truck and Bus; Special Products; Leyland International.

Lord Scarman, in a lecture thought that "A Bill of Rights is imperative".

At Wembley, England beat Italy 2-0; the latter beat Luxembourg on Dec 3 to qualify for the World Cup.

17. The Egyptian Foreign Minister and his deputy resigned over President Sadat's proposed visit to Israel.

Miss Mary Stavinis (20) of Sweden was elected Miss World.

Mr Bonaventura Siphio Malaga died in detention in Johannesburg.

19. President Sadat arrived in Israel; he addressed the Knesset the following day; he arrived back in Cairo on the

November

1. In a pit head poll, miners voted against a pit productivity scheme, committing the union to pursue a 135-week claim; on Dec 8, the NUM rejected the claim; on Dec 22 the High Court refused an injunction against the scheme.

2. The Queen arrived from Barbados on Concord, having travelled 36,000 miles in 13 countries.

Russia offered to suspend peaceful nuclear explosions.

The Wildenstein collection was bought by a Saudi Arabian for £8.6m; it was exhibited in the France which he had bought the previous week for £9.3m.

3. The Queen's speech on opening Parliament; loan assistance to first time home buyers; a revival of inner-urban areas.

New rules on mixed marriages were drawn up by the Roman Catholic Church and other churches.

4. In Belgrade 14 western countries called on Russia to ally to recognise human rights.

The Scotland and Wales Bills were published.

5. The United States withdrew 500 troops from the International Labour Office.

An amnesty in Russia was limited to criminals; prisoners of conscience would not be freed.

India and Bangladesh signed an agreement, after a 25 years' dispute, on sharing the waters of the Ganges.

A draft treaty proposed that Roman Catholicism would no longer be the state religion in Italy.

9. Tyre in SW Lebanon was bombed by Israeli aircraft; 65 bodies were found.

The European assembly election Bill was published (see also Dec 13).

12. Ingrid Schubert, the sixth member of the Baader-Meinhof gang, committed suicide in her cell.

13. Somalia expelled 5,000 Russian advisers; it also broke off diplomatic relations with Cuba.

14. The first official strike by firemen began after their claim for a 30 per cent pay increase had been refused; 10,000 men of the armed forces dealt with fires.

15. Mr Begin invited President Sadat to visit Israel (see also the 17th and 19th).

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December

The Housing (Homeless Persons) Act 1977 came into operation.

South Africa's ruling National Party achieved an overwhelming majority in the general election.

Agassi reports on the Crown Against us or sack us" was the Prime Minister's challenge at the Labour Party conference in Belgrade. 35 nations began a review of the Helsinki agreement of 1975 (see also Nov 4).

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Jack Lonsdale

Mr Jenkins will be judged on how he handles changes that are bound to shake the EEC

At the end of his first year as president of the European Commission, Mr Roy Jenkins probably feels considerably more relaxed than he expected to even a few months ago. Things are starting to go right for the Commission, even though signs of positive achievement are still few and far between.

Part of Mr Jenkins's relative success is that he has established an effective relationship between the Commission and the European Council—the three-yearly summit meeting of heads of government of the Nine. The European Council has just concluded, under the presidency of Belgium (the most efficiently "European" of all EEC member states), an unusually productive meeting, which actually took some useful decisions on the budget, the size of the regional fund, and in approving the Commission's plan for a new loan to stimulate energy investment.

The second factor going for Mr Jenkins is the sharp reduction in expectations over the past year. His initial difficulties in Brussels were partly due to sheer lack of understanding of the workings of the peculiar administrative machine—a defect which has now largely been rectified; and partly because he was unwisely flattered by too many people who should have known better as the new Messiah, who was going to end the lethargy and frustrations of the Ortolani era, and set the Community off to a new start.

Today, people are more reconciled to the fact that reform of the Community institutions is going to be a long and tortuous task, and that there is not much the Community as such can do about some of Europe's more intractable current problems, such as unemployment and inflation. There is a greater air of realism about in Brussels.

At the same time, the recovery of the British and Italian economies has taken at least some of the strain out of EEC policymaking, and has helped to induce a calmer atmosphere. The question now is how the Community can profit from this turnaround, and on that there is as yet no consensus. Roy Jenkins's own ideas in this field are more radical than a majority of his Commission colleagues will accept—let alone the national governments.

However—and this is the final factor working for the new Commission—the main themes of the next few years are beginning to emerge; and it is on these that any new programme has to be based. The two outstanding new issues are the prospective enlargement of the EEC to take in Spain, Portugal and Greece; and direct elections to the European Parliament.

It is clear that neither of these issues can be treated as an isolated question. Enlargement will fundamentally alter the nature of the Community, and will therefore force a thoroughgoing examination of the process of decision-making, and the balance of power. A structure which worked reasonably well for six countries (with four languages) has proved unwieldy for a community of nine countries (with six languages), and will almost certainly prove unworkable, unless fundamentally reformed, for a community of 12 countries embracing nine different languages.

Thus the issues of the reform of Community decision-making, which have hitherto been avoided because of their obvious sensitivity, will have to be considered in the context of the enlargement talks. As with enlargement, so with direct elections to the parliament. Here again, the most crucial questions are not those which currently attract debate: the date of elections, the method of voting, and so on. The real issue is the balance of power in the Community between the executive (the Commission), the national governments, and the elected legislature.

The important thing about a directly elected parliament is that its members will have the legitimacy which they currently lack as elected legislators, plus the accountability that goes with it; also, they will have the time to devote to European affairs which most of them now lack. (Today's European parliamentarians are all "moonlighters", carrying out their European functions in the time they can spare from national politics. After direct elections, the number of such "moonlighters" will be very few.)

But this does not alter the fact that on the morrow of direct elections the European Parliament will have no more powers than it has now—and these powers are very few. The European Parliament has no power to initiate or approve legislation. It has limited authority over a part of Community expenditure—but none, for example, over by far the biggest item, the common agricultural policy. It does not appoint the Commission, nor can it remove individual Commissioners, its only power in this respect being the right to sack the whole Commission en bloc.

It is inconceivable that a directly elected, full-time European Parliament will be content to remain for long simply a consultative body, without any of the powers of national legislatures possess. But it is not easy to see some of the national governments—especially the United Kingdom and France—agreeing to any significant transfer of power to the European Parliament. If a major constitutional clash is to be avoided—in which, for example, the parliament might well feel tempted to exercise its constitutional right to dismiss the entire Commission—contingency planning needs to be done now to try to determine how powers can be transferred in a peaceful, orderly and effective way.

In short, a Community with 12 members and with a directly elected parliament is going to be a very different entity from the present one. So it is no longer a question of arguing whether there should or should not be changes. If the premises of enlargement and direct elections are accepted, change will come anyway. The only question is how it should be handled, and what kind of Community one should be aiming for.

On this second point, the options have become a good deal clearer in the last few years. The federal United States of Europe, on the American model, is clearly receding as an attainable objective. At the same time, the strength of the European

institutions has been shown during the recent recession, and the degree of policy coordination between member states is increasing steadily. The development of harmonization and supra-national decision-making has varied greatly, depending on the relevance of the issues to national governments, and the degree of opposition by entrenched national interests.

So what is emerging is a loose functional confederation, in which member states retain considerable autonomy, but accept the commitment to abide by the rules of the club and to take into account the needs of fellow-members when framing policies; a confederation in which in some areas, but by no means in all, the main focus of decision-making has shifted from national to supra-national level. Such a structure is likely to prove durable so long as it remains flexible, and the frontiers of national sovereignty are likely to change with changing pressures and circumstances.

But this pragmatic evolutionary process is to continue, there has to be more effective planning at the centre to try to anticipate the critical issues, and to suggest ways in which they might be defused. For what is clear is that the Community is moving daily more deeply into territory where the Treaty of Rome gives little guidance, and where new insights are needed.

In default of a European "Brookings" and one hopes very much that some such independent but authoritative European "think-tank" will be in operation before long—such forward planning can only effectively be done by the Commission. Now that Mr Jenkins and his team have settled in, and the crisis atmosphere of the past few years shows signs of subsiding, it is extremely important that they should concentrate on establishing the structures, and laying down the guidelines, whereby Europe can begin for the first time to plan its future. It is on this, in the last analysis, that history will judge them.

Michael Shanks



The jubilee this year has not provoked the parallel of a new Elizabethan age that was such a platitude 25 years ago. Perhaps it seems so obvious that there can be no real comparison between our present state of declining influence and self-confidence with the virile and expansionist England of Gloriana, Drake, Raleigh and Shakespeare, as we all know from infancy, were full of creativity and achievement, and had little in common with us in mood.

Or did they? Perhaps a few words from the old Elizabethans—not entirely selected out of context—may suggest that both Elizabethan ages have much in common—certainly in sharing the traditional English self-depreciation and idolization of the past.

The justice Ralph Rokeby is one of numerous Elizabethans who sounded like a disgruntled correspondent to the *Daily Telegraph*: "In these our times," he wrote, "honest behaviour and fair conditions are so far gone to decay, that old man's proverb, 'Is verified, 'Oh! it is not now as it was in times past when we were young men.' A government committee considering legislation a little earlier, in 1550, could have been voicing the law and order arguments of four centuries later: men could only be made better by fear of punishment, for 'by the looseness of the times no other remedy is left but by use of law to acquaint men with virtue again'."

Pessimistic voices from the early days, before the glories of the reign had produced optimism? But the queen herself at the end of her life, could look back nostalgically to the simpler, violent but straightforward middle ages: "In those days force and arms did prevail, but now the wit of the fox is everywhere on foot, so as hardly a faithful and virtuous man may be found."

There was general agreement on one main cause of the loosening of the times—lack of discipline, especially among the young. Black Paper philosophies were common property even among men of thought as radical. Was it not the early Protestant Bishop Latimer who "never saw, surely, so little discipline as nowadays"? "Alas," he cried, "where is this discipline now in England?" The queen's own tutor, Roger Ascham, is remembered for his progressive, but stern, discipline, which urged gentle and pleasurable instruction, but it too looked back to a golden age which only firm teaching could restore.

Everywhere innocence is gone, bashfulness is banished, much presumption in youth, small authority in age, reverence is neglected, duties be contemned. His patron and the queen's chief minister, Burleigh, agreed with the diagnosis and differed only in putting the blame on parents more than schooling: "The unchastity looseness of youth in this age was the parents' fault, who made them men seven years too soon, having but children's judgments."

A generation later the complaints had not lessened. An epitaph to a "rock couple" (1599) could record baldly that their 16 children were "not bad, as children now are, but all good"; and as for adolescents, there is the shepherd's wish in *The Winter's Tale* that "where were no age but twenty ten and three and twenty... for there is nothing in the between but getting wench with child, wronging the ancients, stealing, fighting...".

The sins of the flesh, indeed, attracted their usual share of grotesquely exaggerated comment. The *First Book of Homilies*, familiar to all Elizabethans from regular readings in church, declared boldly that "above other vices the outrageous seas of adultery... whoredom, fornication, and uncleanness have... overflowed almost the whole world." The preachers of the Festival of Light seem pallid beside a figure like Calverley, Professor of Divinity at Cambridge, who wished to enforce the Old Testament death penalties for adultery and blasphemy; and Mrs Whitehouse might blush at the sweeping condemnation of pernicious influences like the theatre that, it seems, created the first Elizabethan pessimistic writers. Do not plays, asked Philip Stubbes, "Induce whoredom and uncleanness? Nay, are they not rather plain devourers of maidenly virtue and chastity?"

His kindred spirit, the preacher Thomas White, has

Why the world of Elizabeth I was not so unlike our own



Elizabeth I: her inspiration gave birth to a legend.

gone, bashfulness is banished, much presumption in youth, small authority in age, reverence is neglected, duties be contemned. His patron and the queen's chief minister, Burleigh, agreed with the diagnosis and differed only in putting the blame on parents more than schooling: "The unchastity looseness of youth in this age was the parents' fault, who made them men seven years too soon, having but children's judgments."

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earned immortality for his allegory. "The cause of plagues is sin and the cause of sin are plagues; therefore the cause of plagues are plagues." And that of provocative female "struts and antick demeanour." "Such strutting attire," wrote another clergyman, William Hamson, "as in times past was supposed meet for name, but not for use, hath now become a habit for chaste and sober matrons. I have met with some of these trills in London so disguised that it hath passed my mind to discern whether they were men or women."

Mr Hamson would find the climate of economic privation, a personally strident, but certainly no less genuine, many attempted remedies, a more successful, and still more lament.

The world is changed from last Not to the better but to the worse for a penny we have lost more than four pence, who list to compare.

Immigrants were blamed for native unemployment, and if they were European and not North American, the blame spoke with the same accent. "Aliens here have their way," a satirical poet declared as early as Henry VIII's time, "and Englishmen clean decay." And there was that perennial grievance of the weather—perhaps with some justice in some later years of Elizabeth, when crops failed disastrously. "Our years are turned upside down," pined John King in 1593. "Our summers are no summers, our harvests are no harvests."

And the moral climate was deteriorating in sympathy, if the old men with long memories could be trusted. John Stow, looking back to the good old days before the Reformation, spoke of the present time (1598) as "the most scoffing, disrespectful, and unthankful age that ever was."

David Palliser

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Bernard Levin

Wanted, some impeccable tales of Kai Lung

I quoted Kai Lung the other day and was met by a look in which there was no glimmer of recognition. Yet surely I cannot be the last among the living to remember, and indeed to read still, that enchanting and unique series of books? I appear to have only three on my shelves—*Kai Lung Unrolls His Mat*, *The Wallet of Kai Lung* and *Kai Lung's Golden Hours*—so no doubt my proselytizing fervour has led me, over the years, to thrust other volumes into the hands of potential converts, for there were several more collections of the tales, and I collected them all assiduously. (If the proselytizing worked, let the converts be easy in their consciences, for if it is now the company of the blessed, I bear them no grudge for their depredations.)

The Kai Lung stories were written by a man whose pen-name was Ernest Bramah, the surname being an adaptation of his mother's maiden name; he was really Ernest Bramah Smith. And he kept himself so entirely and fanatically out of the limelight that, until an

American enthusiast, William White, published an article about him in *The American Book Collector* in 1966, his name, together with the fact that he died in 1942, was absolutely all that was known about him; only Julius, the Tichborne Claimant, and E. Travençolo seem to elude identification more thoroughly. His very *Who's Who* entry listed nothing but the titles of his books—not even his year of birth was recorded—and his publishers and literary agents used to declare that they had met him only a handful of times in several decades, and then briefly.

William White, in the article I have mentioned, explains that he first became interested in the author by acquiring an addition to the books, and was then even more fascinated by the difficulty of finding out anything more about him. But a series of chances led him to a cache of Bramahiana at Texas University—the very walls and floors of that infinitely hospitable institution must be in danger of collapse from the immensity of manuscripts and other literary memorabilia it houses already, and to which it adds daily by the freight-trainful—and from this together with assiduous researches in England, he was

able to piece together about as much biographical material as would cover a matchbox-label or two. It seems that Smith-Bramah was born in 1868, died far from success, then moved into journalism; that it is possible to trace his life and movements in some detail (for instance, he went to Manchester Grammar School from his early childhood until 1897, when he was 29; and that for the remaining 45 years of his life he wandered as completely as Villon when he got his head out of the hangman's noose for the last time.

The books remain. And they offer a particular kind of delight. The tales are now vanished—I think entirely—from our literature. Some of the ingredients still exist: his beautifully-tailored style, for instance—reminiscent of a more robust Logan Pearsall Smith, a less cruel Evelyn Waugh, an unromantic Woodhouse—though with his delightful wit (the barb so carefully concealed that it only begins to sting some time after it has been withdrawn), his fantastic and apparently effortless imagery, and his almost imperceptible yet very strong philosophical stance.

These are all rare enough today, and the combination of them is rarer still, but what Bramah added when all those strands were woven together was a unique, wholly original, and never raised his voice, and he never buried.

Those who have followed me so far without managing to elude anything at all about the contents or substance of the books I am writing about may be forgiven if they conclude through clenched teeth that there is at least one man writing today who also conceals his true identity.

The tales are recounted by an itinerant Chinese storyteller, Kai Lung, and some of the flavour of the stories can perhaps be gathered by quoting his own description of himself and his trade, couched in that curious self-deprecatory style that is supposed to be (or to have been) the hallmark of the Chinese.

My unbecoming name is Kai Lung, and for that matter

to which has been added that of Lung. By profession I am an incapable retailer of imagined tales, and to this and I spread my mat wherever my upturned voice can seduce together a company to listen. Should my feeble efforts be deemed worthy of reward, those who stand around my perchance contribute to my scanty store, but sometimes this is judged superfluous.

The tales themselves are usually told in a context: that is, they are not simply a string of stories but are told for a particular reason, generally to get the story-teller out of some difficulty or danger. Indeed, in the most substantial of the books, *Kai Lung's Golden Hours*, which is almost a novel, every one of the tales is narrated in order to postpone his own execution from day to day, rather like Scheherazade, and at the end he manages to turn the tables entirely on his unjust accuser.

The stories are strewn with mock-Chinese images, rubrics and proverbs. "It is a mark of insincerity of purpose to seek for the Emperor in the low-class tea-houses." "He who is compelled to share a cavern with a tiger learns to stroke the tiger's back." "In shallow water dragons

become the laughing-stock of sturdy fish." Each of which is delicately but perfectly fitted to the particular use made of it, the analogy it is designed to point up. And he can provide the seersaw with two ends:

"Of the Mandarin himself those who know speak with vague lips. What is done is done by the pressing hand of one Ming-shu, who takes down his spoken word; of whom it is truly said that he bears little resemblance to a man and still less to an angel."

"Yes," protested the story-teller hopefully, "it is wisely written. 'He who never opens his mouth in strife can always close his eyes in peace.'"

"Doubtless," assumed the other, "he can close his eyes assuredly. Whether he will ever again open them is another matter."

Even from those few examples I think that the gentle rhythm of the prose can be felt, but what cannot be conveyed by brief citations is the very crisp attitudes he held. To call them moral would be to risk overloading his fragile sampan, but they are: humble righteousness (which Kai Lung represents) is invariably victorious, and the stories them-

selves, though some of them are shot through with a much cynicism that is full of relish, and the oppressive cast down. But whether Bramah is pointing some simple truth, or merely spinning his perfumed web, in full of a rinking wit that keeps the reader with a perpetual smile of pleasure on his face. Try another sample, this one from a conversation between a youth reluctant to embark on matrimony and his grandfather urging him to it:

"Is there not one Ning of the worthy line of Lo, dwelling beneath the emblem of a Sprouting Aloe?"

"Truly," agreed the youth; "but as an early age she came under the malign influence of a spectral vampire, and in order to deceive the creature she was adopted to the navigable portion of the river here, and being pronounced as having Passed Above was henceforth regarded as a red mullet."

As I have suggested, it is rare for me to find a fellow-enthusiast for these concoctions, though I am in good company in my taste for them: among his readers have been Belloc, John Buchan, Gissing, Bret Harte, George Moore, Quiller-Couch, Shaw, Dorothy Sayers, and Isaac Zangwill. I do not even know whether any of his books are in print; but if there is any Kai Lungian bookseller reading this column, let him take it as an order for copies of *The Wallet of Kai Lung*, *Moon of Good Gladness*, *The Mirror of Kong Ho*, and *Kai Lung Beneath the Mulberry Tree*.

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Food, glorious food—and the long wait ends

Having listened for more years than I care to remember to the workhouse boys from *Oliver!* vainly sighing for food glorious food, I felt distinctly relieved on Wednesday night to watch them tucking into a feast.

Not only that, but unlike Dickens's pathetic original, they asked for more—and were given it.

Lionel Bart's lyrics inspired the menu: hot sausage and mustard, cold jelly and custard, pease pudding and savefoys, peaches and cream. The "great big steak" emerged as beef casserole, but I heard not a single complaint.

Oliver! has taken up residence in London, at the Albany, after a rip-roaring provincial tour. For Wednesday night's after-the-show gourmandizing, cast and guests erupted on to the stage from the auditorium.

Dodging the midnight saveloy munchers, I managed to have a word with Mr Bart himself. He is now solvent once again and looks in. He is acting as consultant on the present

revival of *Oliver!* and still seems confident that *Quasimodo*, his musical version of the Hugo novel which has been an on-off idea since the early 1960s, will open in London some time next year. He would not reveal his choice for the role of the hunchback.

I liked the way he summed up the essential difference between *Oliver!* and *Quasimodo*. "*Oliver!*'s basic theme is: What is Love? *Quasimodo*'s theme will be: What is ugliness?"

An hour earlier I had watched a spotlight smite Mr Bart as he stood up in the stalls to acknowledge the roar of the first-night audience. It was a demonstration of warmth that stopped just short of hysteria.

Memories stirred... the night, now almost historic, in the same theatre (though it was then *The New*) when *Oliver!* took its bow in the West End. Could it really be as long ago as June 30, 1960?

Strong counter attack in defence of the gnome

I have called down on my head the wrath of gnome-lovers because of my less than ecstatic reception of the news that a Gnome Club of Great Britain is being planned. I am accused of being unfeeling, unimaginative, pompous and insulting. That final charge worries me the most. It implies that there really could be such things as gnomes, and the dread inference I draw from that sentiment is that the projected club might become a reality after all.

A milder reproach, in the form of a splendidly timed PR exercise, comes from the English Library. They have sent me a copy of a sumptuously produced book called *Gnomes* which strikes me as being the ultimate in leg-pulls.

Wil Huygen's text on the life style of the gnome is straightforward and affectionate and the many colour illustrations by Rien Poortvliet should make garden-gnome manufacturers hang their heads in shame at their own crude handiwork.

My only fear is that the book makes out such a convincing case for the existence of the gnome that the more incensed of my critics will send me a copy of it, bearing some such legend as "Boo snakes: now try taking these aren't such things!"

To save him (or her) the expense, I refer him/her to an editorial note on the jacket. It refers, without ambiguity, to "made-up reality".

And if he/she lives in Greater London, which seems likely from the postmark, I would refer him/her to the map in the book which shows that there are no gnome colonies in the area and that his/her report of sightings is probably the result of drinking too much mead dew, a beverage to which the book says the gnome is partial.

Some do's and don'ts for America's Everyman

Thorough and thoughtful as always, the United States Air Force has provided British journalists visiting Berlin with a document entitled *Customs in Germany*. It contains advice for newly arrived servicemen.

It tells them, for example, about attitudes: "Unfortunately, the typical American in the eyes of many Europeans is a loud, loud, loud, impolite, boastful, and impatient."

You may be asked questions about the United States and the American way of life. Answer questions frankly and do not always add or boast "of course everything is better in the States". Also be aware of sensitivities concerning past history.

What is most useful, I suspect, is the explanation of the natives' habits. "When Germans eat, the fork is held in the left hand and the knife in the right, cutting each bite just before eating it. The food is carried with fork in the left hand. 'Also, when eating food which needs no cutting, the hand not in use is put on the table next to the plate, contrary to the American custom of placing it on the lap. A special fish knife is used when eating fish."



He's just been checking Callaghan's New Year's Honour Lists

When K stands for compromise

Knoedler's, the famous old firm of New York art dealers, taken over by the oil magnate Armand Hammer in 1970, is reuniting its London branch in New Bond Street.

The New York gallery's new managing director, Lawrence Rubin, has persuaded John Kasmin to form an equal partnership called Knoedler Kasmin Ltd and run the gallery in revamped premises at Savoy and Moore House, opposite Sotheby's.

The lively and much liked Mr Kasmin had his own gallery near by in Bond Street from 1962 to 1972, where he showed such artists as David Hockney, whom he still represents, and leading American abstract painters like Frank Stella, the subject of his opening exhibition with Knoedler.

After closing the Kasmin Gallery he dealt for five years from first floor premises in Clifford Street. His old partner, Lord Dufferin and Ava is remaining with him.

By the time Mr Hammer took over Knoedler's, it had lost a good deal of its reflected glory of its heyday, when it helped build most of the big American

Why the eagle had to go

Archbishop Shephard, the Orthodox Primate of Greece, was obliged to change completely the design of his personal standard—a black, byzantine double-headed eagle set against a yellow-gold background—when he found that it looked very much like the emblem of a well-known football team.

It appears that every time he grove past in his limousine with his flag flying, the team's supporters would cheer or hurl abuse, depending on the team's performance in their last match. The new standard carries the byzantine monogram of Jesus-X with a superimposed F.

A ballpoint pen on sale at a London comprehensive school bears the legend: Rokeby Comprehensive.

Why the eagle had to go

over immigration



New Printing House Square, London, WC1X 8EZ. Telephone: 01-837 1234

A NEW MAN AT THE FED

During his eight years as Chairman of the American Federal Reserve Board Dr Arthur Burns has become a symbol of financial rectitude at home and abroad. He has been a fearless champion of the use of monetary policy in the battle against inflation and has fought to preserve the independence of the Fed from the executive branch of government.

The existence of a strong and independent central bank makes the pursuit of a non-inflationary monetary policy both easier and more likely. It acts as a brake on the typically more freely spending government, ensures that monetary as well as fiscal objectives are considered in the formulation of economic policy. It is to be hoped that Dr Burns will remain on the board of governors of the Federal Reserve System and continue to make a strong contribution to American monetary policy. However, the hard reality is that the position of the Fed on the board of governors of the Federal Reserve System will depend on his successor, Mr G. William Miller.

The Federal Reserve Board has been at the centre of recent controversy over whether there is a need for more government action to stimulate expansion in America. It has been severely criticised by the American Congress for following an over-restrictive credit policy and for counteracting fiscal stimulus with monetary tightness. In fact the money supply this year has

consistently overshot the growth targets set by the Fed, although by no more than for example in West Germany.

Despite his reputation as a financial conservative Dr Burns waited for some time before raising interest rates in an attempt to curb the excessive money growth. The two point rise in the autumn, while attacked by expansionists in Congress and obliquely by the Administration itself, was no more than was consistent with the faster growing economy. The problem for next year is how to maintain the growth in America, which has been so much greater this year than in the rest of the industrialised world without tipping the balance towards faster inflation.

President Carter has made clear his intention to administer a fiscal stimulus to the economy through tax cuts in the spring. He believes that the danger of renewed recession now outweighs that of a resurgence in inflation. There are increasing signs that world growth, which has been much less than hoped and indeed expected this year, will be even more disappointing next year. The possibility of slump in 1978 is a real one. In this context the willingness of America to lead all the other industrialised nations must be welcomed. It is, however, essential that a firm grip on the money supply is maintained in the United States as elsewhere. Mr Miller's role will thus be crucial.

His views are not yet known.

NO MORE TO BE GOT OUT OF IT

It is seldom that a group of workers goes on strike with such a sense of rectitude as the firemen have shown. The quite exceptional eagerness of ordinary union members to justify their position to the press and the cynical or apathetic spirit in which so many strikers in other industries obey the call to come out has little place in this dispute. When the delegate meeting of the Fire Brigades Union called the strike last month, many of those voting must have imagined that the action would be brief, or that the Government would capitulate merely under the threat of it; fire stations have in effect been manned throughout the strike by pickets ready to act whenever life is in danger.

This very conviction of righteousness, together with a lack of familiarity with the hard realities of industrial power politics, has caused the strikers to persist in their action with a determination that would be admirable in other contexts. It is no small thing to endure seven weeks without strike pay, and it is bitter to face the possibility of

defeat after so long. But yesterday's long meeting of the FBV executive showed that divisions in the union are becoming sharper, even though the executive failed in the end to accept the logic of the situation that confronts it. Only a second delegate conference has power to end the strike before its objects have been fully achieved. The executive should have called a delegate conference and made a firm recommendation that it should endorse a return to work.

The terms offered three weeks ago already concede the main point: that the union sought to establish. They offer guarantees of a permanent improvement in long-term status which were not on offer at the outset of the strike and which many other groups of workers would grasp at eagerly. A fireman's pay would be related to the movement of average earnings in such a way that it would rise over the next two years to parity with the average earnings of skilled workers (those in the top quarter of the industrial league) from their current level close to the average of all workers in

to the public. As the President's own appointment he is likely to be more sympathetic to the aims of the White House than was Dr Burns. It has been thought in Washington that the present Chairman is very doubtful about the need for considerable further stimulus. Mr Miller has spoken about the need to combat unemployment and inflation together, and to coordinate monetary and fiscal policy to this end.

Although Mr Miller is not expected to oppose the thrust of the President's measures to stimulate the economy it is to be hoped that he will use his position to ensure that growth is non-inflationary. A larger fiscal deficit need not finance further inflation if the money supply is kept under firm control. The use of fiscal deficits to combat the present failure of the industrialised world to grow is winning new advocates. The huge balance of payments surpluses of the oil exporting nations have been a drag on the world growth. To some extent the fiscal deficits in the major countries are the counter-part to this. A monetary policy which combined with fiscal policy to keep inflation under control while effectively attacking unemployment would be fine if it were feasible. It may prove, however, that the only monetary policy which controls inflation is one which slows growth through its effect on interest rates. If so, Mr Miller will have to fight hard for monetary control.

Pay and pensions in Civil Service

From Lord Orr-Ewing

Sir, For more than three years there has been pressure in both Houses of Parliament for a more objective way of calculating pay and pensions in the Civil Service, so that they are comparable with industry. On November 18 (without much publicity or subsequent press comment), the Lord Privy Seal announced a new arrangement for supervising the Pay Research Unit.

Many of us have been pressing for a reconstitution of this unit, with an independent chairman and at least half the members coming from outside the Civil Service. It has been argued for several years that the value of virtual "unsackability", fully indexed pensions and other advantages, were worth more than the 12 per cent reduction in salaries which was subtracted from the Civil Service pay to give comparability with the private sector.

The Government have retained 100 per cent Civil Service manning of the PRU. The "independent" viewpoint will be put by a new body, the Research Unit Board. This is a board which will meet only as required. The Director of the PRU will be an ex-officio member of this supervisory board. The chairman and all the members are, it seems, to be appointed by the Prime Minister from outside the Civil Service.

Enormous sums are at stake, and if justice is seen to be done, it would be a more satisfactory arrangement. If the independent members sit on the PRU, where the data is collected and the detail work done. Comparability is an extremely difficult job, and can only be carried out by those thoroughly well versed with long experience in the pay and pension field. It is to my mind essential that the Institute of Actuaries should be brought into the picture when mathematical formulae and assumptions have to be made. It should not be left in the hands of the Government Actaries Department, who, once again, are civil servants.

These new procedures are not to come into effect until 1979 (or 1980 in the case of scientists). The PRU has been in suspense since July 1976, when the Government announced that a majority of independent members, so that a more objective comparability can be built into the increases to be given at the end of 1978.

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD LUCE,
House of Lords,
December 27.

Reform of Parliament

From Mr Richard Luce, MP for Shoreham (Conservative)

Sir, Sir William Haver, in his letter of December 28, is both deplorable and uninformed about Parliament. This is most uncharacteristic of him.

Parliament's recent vote on the European elections is no excuse in the sweeping condemnation that follows. I believe that there is an urgent need to strengthen the legislature which the Executive, many other politicians feel the same. The Select Committee on Procedure has been established to review all the procedures of the House of Commons and is due to report sometime in January. Sir William's letter is unjustified in stating that "no one can force a reforming committee on a sovereign Parliament". The House of Commons set up such a committee in 1976.

But then he suggests that such a problem is "insoluble". Sir William should submit his views to the Select Committee as to how the House of Commons should be reformed. Yours faithfully,
RICHARD LUCE,
House of Commons,
December 28.

Price of Scotch abroad

From Dr R. Ciamfanelli

Sir, As a citizen of Italy, for many years one of the world's top consumers of Scotch, and as a convinced anglophile and European, I must point out that the sad story of Mr Johnnie Walker (red label) being forced into exile by those naughty EEC bureaucrats is reported rather unfairly in this country.

As every traveller will confirm, a bottle of Scotch whisky can be bought in any Rome or Milan supermarket at around £2.40 while in London or even in Edinburgh the identical bottle costs over £4. This difference is entirely due to high taxation of spirits (and wine) in the UK. It is not surprising, therefore, that Mr Johnnie Walker chose to become a tax exile.

Yours sincerely,
RICHARD CIAMFANELLI,
8 North End, NW3,
December 22.

National Land Fund

From Mrs Ruth Colyer

Sir, The House of Commons Select Committee on Public Expenditure may, it seems, recommend the allocation of the remaining part of the National Land Fund to a new national heritage council or commission empowered to use it to retain in Britain treasures liable to be exported. Admirable as this purpose may be, the very name "Land Fund" surely implies that some of it be spent on treasured landscapes: though not exportable, their natural beauty, their value as a habitat of flora and fauna and their accessibility to the public are at risk from modern agriculture.

All the British soldiers, sailors and airmen who gave their lives in the war gave them their Native Land; so it is fitting that a fund established as their memorial should safeguard the original landscape as well as paintings of them. To quote Gerard Manley Hopkins: "After covers cannot guess the beauty been."

Yours faithfully,
RUTH COLYER,
Orchardside,
Shillingstone,
Blandford,
Dorset,
December 28.

A transition period for Palestinians

From Lord Caradon

Sir, In recent years I have many times travelled through the towns and villages of the West Bank, and listened in many meetings to the views of the Palestinians. They are of one mind in their hope for a state—small it is true but their own—in which they can take their own decisions, elect their own leaders and run their own government.

They have told me, moreover, that they desire long for a period of freedom and transition—say two years—in which they can again engage in political discussion and decide their own fate and plan their own future. And they are determined to live in close association and cooperation with Jordan and with all their neighbours.

This idea of a period of constructive transition may provide a way out of the impasse in the present discussions on the Palestinian issue between Egypt and Israel.

How would it be for the area in dispute to be placed under international trusteeship for a period of two years during which time a boundary commission would hear both sides and make recommendations as to the border between them,

the Palestinians would prepare their own constitution and elect their own government, and international guarantees backed by an international peace force would come into effect?

Complete self-determination for the Palestinians is essential. But self-determination cannot be immediate. Nor can it be long postponed. A plan for international supervision and guarantee for an adequate period would be more acceptable than much more justified than any attempt at sudden transformation or indefinite postponement.

We have now suffered ten years of delay and division and drift. After a short period of hysterical hope there is a dreadful danger of sinking back into hopelessness and most dangerous procrastination.

What is now required, I suggest, is an urgent international initiative in favour of an international transition—a transition to Palestinian freedom and self-determination. Neither is possible without the other. Both are still attainable. Yours sincerely,
HUGH CARADON,
Trenanton Castle,
Selkirk,
Cornwall,
December 28.

Manlaughter sentence

From Professor Terence Morris

Sir, Contrary to a good deal of critical opinion the majority of the High Court in sentencing offenders, usually manage to get the sentence right, in terms of what is a reasonable combination of punishment, deterrence, and an expression of sober public opinion, towards the crime in question. When, however, they get it wrong they seem sometimes to get the sentence hopelessly wrong.

In this context I would suggest that Mr Justice Lawson in passing a sentence of 12 months imprisonment on Ralph Liddle at Winchester Crown Court after he had been found not guilty of murder, but guilty of the manslaughter of a young man of 18 made such an error. The reaction of the boy's father, a man who had served the public as a police officer in Hampshire for 20 years, in resigning from the force is as regrettable as it is understandable. It is all too easy to dismiss such reactions as a frustrated desire for retribution and revenge. While perhaps few would wish now to go along with Fitzmaurice Stephen in his desire that criminals should be "punished" means so contrived as to give expression to that hatred. Parliament has not yet legislated away the principle that grave crimes, of which homicide is surely among the gravest, are to be marked, other things remaining equal, with sentences which reflect that gravity. None of the circumstances ordinarily associated with the passing of a lighter sentence, such as mental illness, provocation, "mercy" killing, and so forth—seems to have been present in Liddle's case. A sentence of 12 months cannot, in all seriousness, reflect the gravity of this crime, and the circumstances in which were characterised by a high degree of deliberation.

It is significant that every article I hold on the question of the film maker's responsibility to his public was shaped in and by South Africa. When I returned to that country in 1962 after graduation, I was deeply sensitive to criticisms of the "white" South African Government, and I was determined to "do my bit" for the anti-apartheid struggle. There was talk of massive redistribution of land to make the "homelands" viable entities, self-government for blacks based on traditional forms, development of the "homelands" as a counter to the unfair competition from whites, etc. At the age of 22, I attached myself enthusiastically to this so-called "white" movement, and in fact made a film for the South African Government called *The Anatomy of Apartheid*. It was the most important lesson of my life. The film had given me unlimited access to townships and "homelands" where blacks, instead of being judged by the police, pointed out the wide gap between theory and intention—let alone practice.

Documentary on S Africa

From Mr Antony R. Thomas

Sir, Your leading article on the subject of the television discussion programme following the last film in the series *The South African Experience* on December 21, raises crucial issues about a film maker's responsibility to his public.

It is significant that every article I hold on the question of the film maker's responsibility to his public was shaped in and by South Africa. When I returned to that country in 1962 after graduation, I was deeply sensitive to criticisms of the "white" South African Government, and I was determined to "do my bit" for the anti-apartheid struggle. There was talk of massive redistribution of land to make the "homelands" viable entities, self-government for blacks based on traditional forms, development of the "homelands" as a counter to the unfair competition from whites, etc. At the age of 22, I attached myself enthusiastically to this so-called "white" movement, and in fact made a film for the South African Government called *The Anatomy of Apartheid*. It was the most important lesson of my life. The film had given me unlimited access to townships and "homelands" where blacks, instead of being judged by the police, pointed out the wide gap between theory and intention—let alone practice.

The lesson learnt was that a film maker must try not to bring any preconception to a subject. It must be a neutral, dispassionate, and he intends to spend on his actual filming to his preliminary research, and he must rely absolutely on his own personal sense of right and wrong and that of his close working colleagues.

Above all, he must declare the subjectivity that guides him. I attempted to apply these principles, even when I lived in South Africa. All my research, and the next documentary were confiscated by the police, and I was detained and cross-examined on two occasions that year. In 1967, I was made a "pass" holder, and my official career as a documentary film maker in South Africa was finished.

The South African authorities may now regret the fact that they allowed me to make a film. It cannot accuse me of biased judgement. Indeed, I have seen "apartheid" from both sides, and my recent documentary films have emerged from that experience. What has panicked and silenced the regime, as well as its British backers and apologists is that millions of Britons have had the opportunity to share a hard-won truth. Yours faithfully,
ANTHONY R. THOMAS,
Mossnow Court, Cloddock,
Longtown, Herefordshire.

Licensing photocopying

From Professor T. E. Allibone, FRS

Sir, I write as one of the members of the 1952 Copyright Committee to support the objections raised by Professor Benin and others in the University of Letters, December 24) to the proposed abolition of the right to have single copies of copyright works made by photocopying machines for one's own use for private study or research: the Whitford Report recommends that a blanket licensing system be introduced so that fees may be collected for owners of copyrights.

The 1952 Committee was anxious that our copyright law should be close to the Brussels Convention of the Berne Union; freedom to make photocopies under certain well-defined restrictions is enjoyed by citizens of European countries without a licensing system being enforced and such freedom ought not to be denied to us.

We have very careful consideration to the way by which safeguards offered to copyright owners could be eroded by the application of modern technical developments to the production of material under the "Fair Dealing" clause; our Part 3 dealt with this subject. In great detail, The Royal Society contended that the making of single extracts from scientific books and periodical publications was essential to research workers; other learned societies concurred and our report laid down strict conditions to be followed by a librarian or by a non-profit-making body when supplying

But in attempting to reply to his critics Mr Justice Lawson is reported by you as saying that "it (the jury's verdict) may have been a merciful one, and I am bound to act in accordance with that verdict". In the first instance it is no part of the task of any jury to arrive at a "merciful" or for that matter "vengeful" verdict. The jury, properly directed by the trial judge as to the law, and assisted by his summing up of the evidence is required to find a verdict on the facts as the law applies to them.

The old practice in the days of capital punishment of recommendations to mercy was highly specific in being directed to the question of hanging and in any event was by no means infrequently disregarded. The judge's reference to the possibility that the verdict might have been "merciful" is irrelevant, but the suggestion that he was bound to proceed in accordance with such a "merciful" verdict would appear to be based upon a doctrine which is as dangerous as it is novel. The task of sentencing belongs to the trial judge who must exercise his own thoughts for the purpose.

If comparison is made with the Liddle case by reference to other similar homicides committed in the course of, or in close temporal proximity to other crimes, then the sentence of 12 months bears not the least resemblance to the norm. It lends support to the view that in exceptional cases the Crown ought to be able to appeal against the sentence on the grounds that it was flatly unreasonable and, as in this case, against the public interest: since it seems to set so little store by the value of human life.

Yours faithfully,
TERENCE MORRIS,
London School of Economics and Political Science,
Roughton Street,
Aldwych, WC2,
December 21.

Arnhem tribute

From Mrs David Noyce

Sir, I am disappointed that a recent significant event seems to have passed unnoticed by your newspaper.

On Sunday December 18 the people of Arnhem paid tribute to the courage and bravery of the small British force who held the north end of their famous road bridge for four days in September 1944 against eventually overwhelming odds. They have resumed the bridge as a memorial to the honour of the then Lieutenant Colonel John Frost, DSO, MC, the commander of the 2nd Battalion Parachute Regiment, whose men mainly comprised the force.

The Dutch were the first to rule that bridges in Holland may not be named after the living and, as part of a civic ceremony involving the opening of a new road bridge across the Rhine, the old bridge was renamed in the presence of Major General (Retd) John Frost, CB, DSO, MC.

Although of a generation younger than those involved in the 1944 conflict, I was immensely moved by this warm gesture and, in this somewhat cynical age, feel unashamedly proud and grateful for General Frost, and men and women of courage like him, who have put and risked their lives at risk in the service of their nation. Yours faithfully,
DIANA NOYCE,
HQ P & SS (Germany),
RAF Rheindorf,
BFPO 40.

In Regent's Park

From Mr J. D. Judah

Sir, I am doubtful of the vitality of the sculpture in the Regent's Park. It is its impact on the surroundings which concerns some of us. After all, the work of John Nash is itself a work of art. It is a work of art, but it is being invaded by objects which neither enhance the original surroundings nor themselves appear happy against their background. For example, there is a new barbed wire at the entrance to a concrete bowl in the open air theatre, a concrete waterfall in the rose garden and to the north of Morecombe and Wise, one notices a series of new artefacts.

The park is something to offer everyone at all seasons of the year, and I don't believe that anyone's sense of humour would be at risk if the statue were moved. I fancy that there is a very suitable gallery for it not a stone's throw from Baker Street.

Yours faithfully,
J. D. JUDAH,
14 Clarence Gate Gardens, NW1.

Divine light

From Mr Paul J. Newman

Sir, The idea of red and green lights in confessionals to indicate whether they're occupied or not is not a recent innovation, as PHS refers in his note (December 21) on a new Catholic church in Richmond. Our local RC church, St Joseph's, has had them for some three years. . . but then Buckinghamshire has so often been ahead of the times, despite its reputation as a conservative, reactionary county.

Yours faithfully,
PAUL NEWMAN,
Claremont,
The Queensway,
Gerrards Cross,
Buckinghamshire.

PUTTING THE TEST TO THE TEST

For its latest test of the MoT vehicle safety test, *Drive*, the magazine of the Automobile Association, bought an old banger and trailed it round the garages of England and Wales. No one passed it, but there was wide inconsistency in the identification of its defects and the severity with which they were condemned. To this Mr Arthur Johnson, the chairman of the Motor Agents Association's technical panel, has replied: "I went to number of doctors, dentists or solicitors with a problem, I'd end up with different views and advice. It all boils down to interpretation."

Mr Johnson puts his finger on the most important point of the case against him. Medical, dental and legal advice is taken from people in whose training, competence and professional honesty a reasonable measure of confidence can be placed. Yet, so, has to be said with regard to mechanics—not that is to say, the same measure of confidence. Yet they are empowered to grant or withhold the test certificate which statute requires and to order (subject to appeal) repairs to be done as in condition of issuing a certificate. It is a responsibility easily abused, either diligently by careless inspection, or venally by taking bribes, or profiting from unnecessary repairs.

Fewer immigrants

From Mr Ian Martin

Sir, Three major factors lie behind the fall in the numbers of immigrants admitted for settlement in the third quarter of this year which you report today (December 22).

The fall of 52 per cent in the admission of British citizens reflects the fact that very few vouchers are now being taken up in East Africa and the fall is continuing in the first nine months of this year only 1,499 vouchers were issued towards an announced quota of 5,000. Despite this British citizens in India, almost all of whom went there from East Africa in desperation when the quota prevented them from entering Britain, must still wait three years for vouchers. Why has the Government failed to reallocate unused vouchers to reduce this waiting period?

The fall of 30 per cent in the admission of Bangladeshis reflects a dramatic rise in the proportion of applications refused, which was 10 per cent of applications processed in early 1976, and had leapt to 33 per cent in the second quarter of this year. It would be highly implausible to assert that such a dramatic increase reflected changing proportions of genuine and bogus applications. The truth is, as Mr Alex Lyon, MP, told the Select Committee on race relations and immigration that since his dismissal "the officials have now taken it into their heads to not exactly as they want in the subcontinent."

The fall of 53 per cent in admissions of Indian citizens, however, does reflect the small number of applications now being made in India by dependants, other than newly-married spouses. It is thus early confirmation of the falsity of the conclusions of the Hawley

report that immigration from the Indian sub-continent would not decrease substantially when current applications from wives and children had been processed.

The belated attempts to clear the backlog of applications by wives and children in Pakistan, reflected in an increase in their admission, are to be welcomed. But the Home Secretary ought not this Christmas to be congratulating himself, as I suspect he is, on falling immigration. He ought to be feeling thoroughly ashamed at the hardship of divided Pakistani families and excluded Bangladeshi families in India at whose expense it has been brought about.

Yours sincerely,
IAN MARTIN,
General Secretary,
Joint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants,
44 Theobalds Road, WC1,
December 22.

PPARO
ologyJohn Foord
CHARTERED
SURVEYORSTHE TIMES
BUSINESS NEWSJohn Foord
PLANT AND
MACHINERY
VALUERSBrussels fixes
minimum import
prices on 140
steel productsBy Michael Hornsby
Brussels, Dec 29

Minimum prices for some 140 steel imports into the EEC have been fixed by the European Commission and were today forwarded to member states for enforcement from January 1, 1978.

The Commission also announced new guideline prices for 10 types of steel product which EEC steelmakers will be asked to observe on the Community's internal market.

Exact minimum import prices, whose imposition for three months was agreed earlier this month by ministers of foreign affairs and trade, will be announced officially tomorrow.

But, according to informants in Brussels, they will on average be about 7 per cent below the EEC's internal guideline prices.

Community steel companies will be prohibited from aligning their prices on these cheaper imports. Foreign suppliers will thus continue to enjoy a competitive edge.

During the period the minimum, or "basic," import prices are in force, the Commission will seek "voluntary" restraint agreements, covering price and quantity, with the main suppliers: Japan, Brazil, Korea, Spain, Finland, the European Free Trade Association and East European countries.

Speaking to the consultative committee of the European Coal and Steel Community in Luxembourg yesterday, Viscount Davies, Director-General of the EEC Commission, said the Commission would be "keeping a very close watch" on the national aid granted to the steel industry.

Next April, Viscount Davies

non said, the Commission would be announcing output and capacity targets for 1985, and it would need to be satisfied that national subsidies were in line with these objectives. Member states would be making "the grave error" if they imagined that minimum import prices and other measures were a substitute for a fundamental rationalization of the EEC's steel industry.

The Commission's latest measures are designed to shore up the sagging steel market pending more far-reaching structural reforms.

Capacity utilization is running at no more than 60 per cent. Output this year is estimated at about 126 million tonnes, compared with 134.2 million tonnes last year. On present trends, it would decline still further to some 120 million tonnes in 1978.

The new guideline prices for the internal market are about 5 per cent higher than existing prices. There will be another 5 per cent rise on April 1, followed by a third 5 per cent increase later in the year, the timing being dependent on market developments.

New prices (per tonne) are as follows: cold-rolled sheet, £201.50; sheet other than strip, £156; quarto sheet, £151.50; thin plate, £156; wire rod, £165; ordinary mild steel concrete reinforcement bars (rebar), £135; high yield rebar, £140; merchant bars, £160; and hot-rolled coils, £156.

In addition, compulsory minimum prices have been fixed for the following: rebar (ordinary mild steel), £130; rebar (high yield), £134.50; merchant bars, £155.50; and hot-rolled coils, £151.50. Hitherto mandatory prices existed only for rebar.

Two BSC lines dearer

By Peter Hill
Industrial Correspondent

New prices for two major product lines were announced by the British Steel Corporation last night. The increases are in line with new minimum prices agreed by the EEC and approved by the Council of Ministers. They affect hot-rolled coil and cold-rolled coil.

In addition, the state steel undertaking, which in the current financial year is expected to record a deficit of at least £500m, announced that it was to lift the price of its main products by about 6 per cent from January 1; the last increase, of 6.4 per cent, was in July.

BSC said the price of hot

rolled coil will be increased by £7 a tonne, a 5 per cent increase. The last rise in hot-rolled coil prices was of 10 per cent, in October, 1976.

Subsequently, against the background of a continued deterioration in the steel market, the corporation introduced a temporary £10 a tonne rebate in February this year so that the price of hot-rolled coil was below that set in October, 1976.

Cold-rolled coil is also being increased in price from January 1 by £3.50 a tonne, about 3 per cent. From October cold-rolled coil were last increased in September this year, by £18.40 a tonne, which reflected pressure from the EEC Commission.

£2m machine
tool deal
for new Mini

By Clifford Webb

Leyland Cars yesterday announced the biggest machine tool order yet placed for the controversial new Mini project (ADO 88)—a £2m line of body panel presses to be installed at its Swindon plant.

The announcement will be seen in some quarters as pre-empting the decision of the executive panel now reviewing the future of the £250m project.

But the 800-ton Wilkins and Mitchell presses would be equally at home producing the LC 10, the new four-door saloon originally had for 1981.

Some influential Leyland executives would prefer to see it launched in late 1979, ahead of ADO 88. Presses of this type can be switched from one car to another simply by changing their tooling.

More than half the £400m investment already committed on ADO 88 is to provide two new body and chassis assembly lines at Longbridge. A further £13m is being spent on fully automated body welding equipment.

Yesterday's announcement also revealed that the new presses will be linked by labour saving automated transfer equipment. Contracts for this will be placed.

The £2m order means that Wilkins and Mitchell, the Darlington, Staffordshire, heavy manufacturing firm, have received orders totalling £10m in a little over a month.

They include a £2.25m order from Vauxhall Motors. A Wilkins and Mitchell spokesman said this gave the company one of its healthiest order books for a long time.

But other machine tool companies are far from happy with continuing delays in Leyland orders.

Last year Leyland Cars forecast that they would spend an average of £45m a year for the next 10 years on United Kingdom machine tools. But it is now clear that in 1977 it fell short of this forecast by some £15m.

Commission allows 3pc soda ash
rise and opens ICI investigationBy Derek Harris
Commercial Editor

Only part of a proposed price increase for soda ash—a major constituent in glassmaking—was allowed yesterday by the Price Commission to Imperial Chemical Industries.

The company had wanted a 5.5 per cent rise, the third increase this year in the commodity of which ICI hold a total production monopoly in Britain. In the event the increase will be only about 3 per cent.

The Commission will now open out its three-month investigation of this part of ICI's activities and there is expected to be particularly close scrutiny of how far the company is operating efficiently while in a monopoly position.

ICI will inevitably face close questioning on the phasing of major investment which is understood to have been going on for some time to modernize and renovate plant. Renovation is a particular problem in soda ash production because it involves arduous processing, the ash or sodium carbonate being a mixture of limestone and salt.

The Commission is expected

to ask ICI to specify how far it has been passing investment costs straight through to customers.

Last night the company confirmed that the latest phase of soda ash investment, to which it was committed last year, amounted to £17m. Of this not quite £6m was going on modernization and renovation work. It is understood that earlier spending amounted to considerably more than this total.

An ICI spokesman pointed out that £11m of the investment is devoted to raising production capacity at Winnington, part of the mid-Cheshire complex for producing soda ash. By mid-1979 an additional 80,000 tonnes a year will be produced, adding to the present annual capacity of 1.9 million tonnes.

"Some 20 per cent of our soda ash production now goes for export and the aim is to increase sales abroad. To do that we need the most modern plant as well as capacity, although at the moment our prices are below those on the

continent," the spokesman added.

Not all investment costs were necessarily being fed through to customers in price rises, the company claims. There has also been an overall rise in costs.

The Commission, which is obliged to follow the price increases under profit safeguard rules during an investigation, said last night that ICI would be allowed to raise the price of soda ash by £2 a tonne, representing about 3 per cent. ICI had sought an ex-works price rise of £3.50 a tonne.

Earlier this year ICI raised soda ash prices—in June by nearly 5.5 per cent, and in March by 6.9 per cent. Glass manufacturers are by far the largest users of soda ash, taking up around 60 per cent of ICI's production. It is also used in making detergents, in certain chemical processes and in metal finishes.

Because there is a world shortage of soda ash users say that in Britain ICI is the only practicable source of supply.

Cod gas field starts
production in N Sea

The Cod gas and condensate field in the Norwegian sector of the North Sea is now in production. The field, which is about 9,000 barrels of oil and 90 million cu ft a day of gas is now flowing into the Ekofisk production complex about 50 miles to the south-east.

Phillips Petroleum, the operator, said the field platform, on the west Ekofisk field was back in production following modification.

In brief

Oil from the area is now around 400,000 barrels a day while gas production has risen to 90 million cu ft a day.

Oil production is expected to start shortly from the Thistle field, in the north-east Shetland basin, operated by the British National Oil Corporation, and will build up to a maximum of about 200,000 barrels a day.

The Italian Cabinet yesterday approved an emergency allocation of 400,000 lire (about £42m) to enable hard-pressed companies to pay December wages and bonuses and to meet urgent commitments to suppliers. Sirone Carlo Donat Cattin, Minister of Industry, above, said a quarter of the allocation would go to the public sector of industry and the rest to the private sector.

Laid up tankers
may store oil

Plans by Japan to use up to 25 laid-up oil tankers as storage units could lead to a substantial improvement in the tanker market.

According to a spokesman for the Oslo-based International Association of Independent Tanker Owners Japan intends to use the tankers, each of 250,000 tons deadweight, to store crude oil. The ships may be taken out of lay-up next May.

There are now about 65 vessels of this size in lay-up. In its end-year review the organization said that last month the world tanker fleet amounted to 329.2 million tons with an order book of 20.8 million tons. Of the present tanker tonnage on order about 75 per cent is scheduled to be delivered before the end of 1979.

The organization also noted that tankers were being scrapped at a faster rate than they were being built.

Because almost all new rented housing is exempt from the tax, the NHBC suggests it is only right that those who buy a new house—those who ultimately pay the tax—should have partial exemption. "Otherwise, there might be thought to be discrimination against buyers—most of them young people on modest incomes."

The NHBC suggests that the reduction of rates through development land tax credits could be helpful in attracting people back to private housing in the inner cities.

"It is not yet easy to attract buyers to formerly run-down areas where there may be a fear of vandals or worse. But it has been shown in the United States that owner-occupiers will defend their property."

Once a few successful experiments are carried out, the idea of more balanced development in inner cities might take root."

MAYNARDS
LIMITED

Notice is hereby given of the appointment of Lloyds Bank Limited as Registrar.

All documents for registration and correspondence should in future be sent to—

Lloyds Bank Limited,
Registrar's Department,
Goring-by-Sea,
Worthing, West Sussex BN12 6DA.
Telephone: Worthing 502541
(STD Code 0903).

D. M. MARTIN, A.C.I.S., A.I.P.M.,
Secretary.

Uncertainty over new Federal Reserve Board chairman increases money market pressure
Dollar slips further against all currencies

By Caroline Atkinson

The dollar lost ground against all major currencies on the foreign exchanges yesterday in the wake of President Carter's decision not to reappoint Dr Arthur Burns as the chairman of the Federal Reserve Board when his term expires at the end of January.

Mr William Miller, who will be the new chairman, is virtually unknown and the markets fear he may not exert such a strong conservative influence on policy as Dr Burns.

As the dollar has dropped this year one factor cited by dealers for its weakness has been the uncertainty over the future of Dr Burns. He has been a firm advocate of a strong dollar as well as being opposed to too much expansion in America.

His position as chairman was felt to be a guarantee that the American money supply would be kept under control, and that policies which would weaken the dollar would be avoided as much as possible.

Sterling climbed further, partly on the back of the dollar's weakness, and touched \$1.9275 at one point. It closed the day at \$1.91, 1.5 cents up on the day. It was also firmer against other currencies and the effective rate index, measured against a basket of currencies, rose to 65.4 in the morning. This is the highest it has reached since the recovery in sterling's fortunes began last autumn. It came down a little to finish at 65.2.

The market was still thin and too much should not be read into the movements. However, most dealers expect that the weakness of the dollar

and the strength of the pound will continue.

In the afternoon there was a little buying back of dollars as some dealers felt that it had been oversold. Nevertheless it closed the day at a new low against the Deutsche mark of DM2.09 and against the Swiss franc of SwF2.01.

Its effective rate depreciation widened still further to -5.02, compared with -4.58 yesterday.

In recent weeks the Canadian dollar has held its ground against the United States dollar whereas earlier in the year it fell even further than the American currency. The effective rate of the American dollar has thus fallen much more sharply in the last weeks.

The weakness began in Tokyo yesterday morning. The Bank of Japan intervened very heavily to hold down the

yen and, managed to bring it back within the 240 level by the close.

Japan's currency has not been at the forefront of the currency turmoil in the last month, but many people now expect it to strengthen again in dollar terms. The Japanese Government may find it impossible to hold the 240 level far into the New Year.

It seems almost certain that when the markets get into full swing next week there will be further pressure on the dollar. The European central banks were not intervening in an obvious way yesterday.

Figures published yesterday showed that there was a very sharp rise in the German official reserves in the first three weeks in December as a result of the intervention then. This could pose a danger to German monetary control.

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Widespread welcome
for the new Fed chiefFrom David Cross
Washington, Dec 29

In spite of some disappointment that President Carter has seen fit to replace Dr Burns, the business community in particular has generally welcomed the choice of Mr Miller.

The Washington establishment, too, is happy about his appointment. Although Mr Miller is largely an unknown quantity in the American capital, he has a reputation as a pragmatic and highly competent business leader.

Even the trade unions, who made no secret of their dislike for Dr Burns' tight money policy, have been quick to endorse the nomination.

The business community is particularly delighted that President Carter has chosen one of their own to head an organization which has an important independent role in the running of the country's economy.

Many people regard the chairman of the Fed as the second most influential American leader after the President. Typical of the reactions from business and financial quarters was the enthusiastic endorsement by Mr A. W. Clausen, chairman of the Bank of America. Mr Miller was one of America's "true" business executives," he said and his selection came as a "welcome news to the business community."

Not all, however, were so enthusiastic. Mr Henry Reuss, the Democratic chairman of the Banking Committee of the House of Representatives, said Mr Miller "sounds great."

His record on making jobs is excellent, and he will be a monetary policy focus not just on a stable dollar but on stable jobs.

Mr George Meany, President of the AFL-CIO, said Mr Miller was "capable and well-qualified."

In replacing Dr Burns as chairman, the President is clearly moving away from discredited policies that created

the last recession and prevented a speedy recovery," Mr Meany maintained.

Predictably, Republican members of Congress have been less enthusiastic about Dr Burns' impending removal from office. Senator Jacob Javits of New York said he regretted that President Carter had missed an opportunity to make "a major positive contribution to sustaining and improving business recovery" by failing to reappoint Dr Burns. He hoped that Mr Miller would bring to the chairmanship of the Fed "the necessary qualities and policies."

Exactly what economic line Mr Miller will take when he assumes office at the end of next month after approval by the Senate remains to be seen. But most commentators here expect him to devote more attention to job creation than his predecessor.

The main criticism of the staunchly conservative Dr Burns by the White House and other quarters was that he concentrated too much on the need to fight inflation and to prop up the dollar rather than stimulating employment.

Mr Miller's mandate suggests he will be more liberal. In a speech in Pittsburgh last January he said he supported a broad new economic stimulus programme to create more jobs, asserting that this need not hamper the continuing fight against inflation.

He also suggested the government should consider preparing "a selective" government controls on the economy as "acceptable medicine" when "symptoms of inflation" popped up. And he supported new tax cuts for industry.

But if he shifts away from his hoped Dr Burns would agree to stay on the board of the Fed as a governor as he had earlier indicated he might, there would be other openings for him in the government in the economic, foreign affairs or human rights sectors, Mr Carter promised.

How Mr Miller proved himself in
America's tough business world

By Our Economics Staff

Mr William Miller, the new chairman of the Federal Reserve Board, built his career during the past 20 years in one of the most successful and financially sound of the American conglomerates.

Now aged 52, he joined the Textron group in 1956 after working for some years in the law firm of Cravath, Swaine and Moore.

When he joined Textron he was given a year to prove himself worth promoting to Vice-President or to be fired. Four years later, he was company President.

The Textron group, which had sales last year of \$2,600m (about £1,366m) and employs 65,000 people, has interests ranging from defence and aerospace to consumer products, such as sippers.

It grew rapidly throughout the 1960s by acquisition, but never ran into the liquidity problems which were the downfall of other conglomerate companies, many of which were modelled on the Textron formula.

The group has had a less readily definable image than

many other conglomerates, but came into prominence in 1975 when it was involved in a plan to take over and rescue the Lockheed corporation, then in severe financial difficulties.

The plan fell through partly because of worries about allegations of fraud by Lockheed in connection with a shipbuilding contract with the United States government.

Mr Miller has been Chairman of the Textron group since 1974, and is a director of a number of other corporations. He has been a member of the board of the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston for the past six years.

Pluck, determination and decisiveness are his strong points, some colleagues said. He's very tough, very decisive. He cannot be pushed around. They will find him as intransigent as Arthur Burns if he feels he's right, a close friend said.

He recalled that Mr Miller allowed subordinates honest mistakes but became "very impatient with incompetence."

He also had a good memory, and was able to move the details of wide-ranging company activities in his head and to recall for his executives facts they might have mentioned in a conversation months ago.

Although committed to the success of his business and known for his long hours of work, he has also been active in other fields.

He has served as head of a national businessmen's association for providing jobs for the underprivileged and was also the first Chairman of the Industry Advisory Committee on equal employment opportunity set up by President Kennedy.

Mr Miller has also been in the van of businessmen seeking closer ties with Eastern European countries and the Soviet Union as chairman of the United States-Polish Trade Council and of the United States-USSR Trade Council.

In recent speeches he has indicated his favour for broad fiscal stimulus to the American economy, and his generally easy-going manner may make it easier for him to stay on good terms with Congress and the Administration than Dr Burns found it.

Comments on the Green Paper submitted yesterday to the Secretary of State for the Environment, the NHBC says land is the key issue, and that the evidence to show that the consumer is being penalized because builders are buying scarce land at inflated prices.

It suggests that local authorities in the south-east of England, for instance, do not fully understand the difference between the evidence to show that the consumer is being penalized, and on the other, plots with planning permission, plus some prospect of infrastructure in places where people want to live.

A factor holding up development, the NHBC says, is "the mutual suspicion between planners and builders, and the unwillingness of some planning authorities to behave in a businesslike way, delegating matters of detail to their officers."

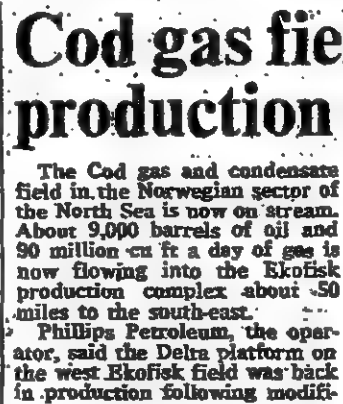
The NHBC's comments also contain a proposal that those buying newly-built houses should pay reduced local authority rates for the first five years after occupation. The suggestion, could be met by revenue from development land tax.

Because almost all new rented housing is exempt from the tax, the NHBC suggests it is only right that those who buy a new house—those who ultimately pay the tax—should have partial exemption. "Otherwise, there might be thought to be discrimination against buyers—most of them young people on modest incomes."

The NHBC suggests that the reduction of rates through development land tax credits could be helpful in attracting people back to private housing in the inner cities.

"It is not yet easy to attract buyers to formerly run-down areas where there may be a fear of vandals or worse. But it has been shown in the United States that owner-occupiers will defend their property."

Once a few successful experiments are carried out, the idea of more balanced development in inner cities might take root."



Mr Miller speaks to journalists after his appointment as chairman of Fed. With him is Dr Burns, left, Mrs Miller and President Carter.

How the markets moved

Rises	Falls
Assam Frontier 20y to 380p	Ayer Hitam 10p to 280p
Assam 10y to 140p	Geover Tin 15p to 400p
Courtesy Pope 6p to 65p	Geover 6p to 700p
Estates Prop 6p to 83p	Gopeng Cons 15p to 270p
Hunting Gibson 8p to 235p	Hunting Assos 5p to 215p
Jarvis, J. 19p to 185p	Messina Trans 6p to 100p
Lydenburg Plat 4p to 58p	Nyson Grp 3p to 5p

ance	6p to 79p
ration	14p to 386p
ing	9p to 412p
at Prop	7p to 120p
	9p to 154p
	9p to 437p
count	10p to 470p

	5p to 270p
"B"	5p to 55p
	6p to 530p
Malayan	10p to 285p
ity	5p to 51p
ines	10p to 163p
res	75p to £11.25

THE POUND	Bank	Bank
Australia \$	1.92	1.92
Austria Sch	30.25	30.25
Belgium Fr	65.25	65.25
Canada \$	2.13	2.08
Denmark Kr	16.50	16.50
Finland Mark	7.90	7.90
France Fr	9.22	9.30
Germany Dm	4.19	3.97
Greece Dr	75.50	75.50
Italy Lr	1700.00	1640.00
Japan Yen	483.00	458.00
Netherlands Gld	4.54	4.32
Norway Kr	10.88	9.71
Portugal Esc	87.50	82.50
S Africa Rand	1.95	1.83
Spain Pes	164.00	158.00
Sweden Kr	9.19	8.94
Switzerland Fr	9.22	8.90
US \$	1.95	1.93
Yugoslavia Dnr	38.75	38.75

Equities were idle. Gold-edged securities saw demand at the short end. Dollar premium: \$4.25 per cent (effective rate 33.35 per cent). Sterling closed at \$1.9100. The Sterling exchange rate index was at 65.2.

Gold rose \$1.5 an ounce to \$166.125. SDR-4 was 1.21554 on Thursday, while SDR-6 was 0.635990. Commodities: Reuters' Index was at 1417.4 (previous 1417.7). Reports, pages 17, 18 and 19

Notes for small denomination bank notes only, as supplied yesterday by the Bank of England. The difference between the bank's and the market's rates is shown in parentheses.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Improving the standard of home insulation

From Mr J. G. Sunley
Sir, It is encouraging to see that the British Government is following the lead given by the United States of America in introducing an energy conservation programme, but in one sector the action proposed is purely remedial and does nothing to correct the root cause.
We are told that a large proportion of the 321m to be available over the next four years will be spent on improving the insulation of council houses and that it is hoped that this will encourage the private sector to take similar steps. What is needed is a change in the building regulations requiring a much higher standard of insulation in new homes. At present this country lags far behind the requirements in many continental and Scandinavian countries in thermal insulation for new housing.
It can be argued that in a normal year new house building adds less than 2 per cent to the national housing stock but there seems to be little point in continually adding inadequately insulated dwellings to this stock knowing that they will have to be improved later either at the expense of the government or the private home owner.
If stricter regulations are brought out now, then in 20 years' time, when we may be in the midst of a severe energy crisis, we shall have the advantage of having at least one third of our housing stock well insulated.
Yours sincerely,
J. G. SUNLEY,
Director, Timber Research and Development Association, Stocking Lane, Hughenden Valley, High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire, HP14 4ND.

From the City Architect and Planning Officer, City of Cambridge
Sir, The easiest way to conserve energy is to increase its price. In order to avoid hardship to domestic and essential users we should charge at one rate for a basic personal or process allocation and charge at a much higher rate for any used above the allocation.
The uses which would be penalised would all be unnecessary and wasteful, conservation would be promoted and, in particular, high density, high energy consuming, high cost building would be less commercially attractive, leading to a lower demand upon services and transport.
An increase in price would quickly achieve savings no other method seems likely to speed above the next decade.
Yours faithfully,
J. M. MILNER,
The Guildhall, Cambridge CB2 3QJ.

A remedy for inflation

From Mr James Lunt
Sir, Mr E. J. Peacock (December 19) joins issue with Professor D. S. Lees, December 13) over the cause of inflation, but both are right.
Inflation, rising price, is due to wages being too high relative to production. If total take-home pay increases, then come Friday the necessary money will have to be forthcoming somehow, and governments and banks are reluctant to foster unemployment by refusing to issue money.
The remedy is to bring down take-home pay by increasing tax on earnings, but not on profits, which are already taxed too much, and those are the very people who would be investing more even increase productivity so as to restore the wage/production ratio to where it should be.
The economy is quite unstable: left to itself wages will go on up and unemployment too. It is only by conscious, uncoincidental manipulation by government of the profit/earnings tax differential that stability and prosperity will be, or even can be, achieved.
Yours, &c.,
JAMES G. LUNT, BSc, FRIC, 10 Arlington Road, Chislehurst, Essex SS8 1LW, December 19.

Environmental needs and the tunnel

From Dr Jonathan Wood
Sir, Before all the environmental lobby rush to support John Whitehouse (December 19) in opposing the construction of a Channel tunnel and its rail links, perhaps they might consider the total effect on the counties of Surrey and Kent.
The bogey of "180 mph juggernauts" trains passing through our villages and towns at three-minute intervals, and the prospect of blocking the way to Farnham, our English dead is good enough stuff. But those who live near Gatwick and Heathrow suffer far more than this already and the Channel tunnel would ease the pressure of traffic at airports. The goods that might travel on the trains are at present thundering through the villages of Kent and Surrey, and it is time we did something constructive to improve the environment.
The abandoned Channel tunnel plan had grown too grandiose. It was a scheme to build a cross-Channel ferry, with tracks, with vast terminals and approach motorways. The 180 mph track for the rail link greatly increased the costs and environmental damage with only a marginal increase in speed compared to a 125 mph route like the one which now runs to Cardiff with little protest from the likes of Mr Whitehouse.
Shouldn't we re-examine in detail the building of a straight-forward rail link designed primarily to take rail passenger

and goods traffic. Ideally there should be no access to goods traffic or cars to the cross-Channel rail link at any point south of the M25 motorway route.
Such a tunnel scheme could be started without the minimum of delay. It would be of great benefit to the country as a whole and could markedly improve the villages and towns of Surrey and Kent by getting some of the traffic out of our roads, and from over our heads onto the railways.
Yours faithfully,
JONATHAN G. M. WOOD, West Surrey Cottage, Dunsford Road, Chiddingfold, Surrey GU20 4YB, December 20.

Britain's industrial performance

From Mr Graham R. Nudd
Sir, As an expatriate engineer the present decline in Britain's industrial performance is most interesting. Perhaps, the most surprising thing is not that the engineering "profession" is so dismal, but given the damaging climate in which it is operating, standing extremely low salaries and the Government's insistence on backing demonstrated losers, why has it survived at all?
However, I read in *The Times* (December 16) that all this will soon end. The Government will submit this problem by a new college course. Two serious problems exist in this bureaucratic solution.
First, how on earth can college teachers, most of whom know nothing at all about industrial enterprise, impart anything relevant to these "bright" students? In Britain, as elsewhere, the mechanics of engineering are well known, but Britain lacks enterprise, motivation and drive.
Secondly, if these courses

Transfers exempt from CTT

From Mr Martin Davis
Sir, Mr David Marks (December 20) writes of the businessman, debarré by capital transfer tax, he would have us believe from giving away his business; yet were the prospective donor to set up a trust for exclusively charitable purposes, to own and manage the business, were he to survive the gift into trust by a year, the transfer would be fully exempt from tax.
Yes, the CTT legislation traps those who seek to dispose of their power in favour of other private individuals; but it quite properly encourages gifts which can benefit the community.
Yours truly,
GRAHAM R. NUDD, 1355 Brinkley Avenue, Brentwood, California 90049.

Engineering exports still in decline

By Edward Townsend
Exports by Britain's engineering industries continue to decline. According to latest figures from the Department of Industry, new orders for engineering fell 4 per cent in the first quarter of the year, down 0.5 per cent in the second quarter.
1 Who said: "nominal" however, keener though—critical engineers—they are elated to boost "understood" orders by 7 per cent?
2 A big B were up by 2.5 householders previous three its cent de and industry, even twice the "figures, fifth some orders were 1938. Wh. to support a every in output.
3 The chrier home market his dir orders and 5 per Amer. sales during the year. Total orders on 4 Which remained unchanged thist year.
5 Nat this rise
6 By consumption dropped ing to Energy Trends, 7 was a 3.5 per cent rise g August to October, 8 the thortish electricity jump increased 6.6 per 9 and from September to vember gas output was 7.3 cent higher than a year
10 Deep-mined coal output dropped by a million tons from September to November, but this was largely offset by a 0.7 million tons rise in open cast production.
Deliveries of almost all grades of oil rose between August and October,

Lord Robens urges independent energy commission to avoid 'debacle of 1960s'

By Ronald Kershaw
Strong criticism of the Government and the Civil Service for the energy "debacle of the sixties" and the costly damage which resulted from ignoring National Coal Board warnings about the power of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries has come from Lord Robens.
The former chairman of the coal board for 10 years from 1961 calls for an independent energy commission, and gives a further warning of the danger of repeating past mistakes.
Lord Robens's observations are contained in his review of a book by Dr Israel Berkovitch, *Coal on the Switchback* (George Allen and Unwin, £7). He admits that while it has not been his policy to comment on the coal industry since he left it, writing the review enables him to "let the lid a little further".
He believes "present thinking is really just as unclear as it was in the 1960s" and he dismisses the National Energy Commission held in 1976 as "a bit of political window-dressing and of no advantage whatsoever to planning an energy policy for the country".
Each energy industry is fundamentally concerned with its own future, "not the collective advantage", he points out. The new Energy Commission

Product liability issue worries BETA

By Stephen Goodwin
In recommendations made to the Government, the Business Equipment Trade Association is opposing proposals that manufacturers should be strictly liable for personal injuries caused by defects in their products, irrespective of fault or limit of time in which the product has been used.
Instead, the association favours shifting the burden of proof and introducing a "presumption of fault on the part of the producer where one of his products causes injury".
Next month the Department of Prices and Consumer Protection will begin considering representations on a report by the Law Commission and Scottish Law Commission on product liability and a draft EEC directive on the same issue.
Comments have to be in by the end of May, but it is likely to be a considerable time before any government proposals emerge—probably in the form of a Green Paper.
Product liability affects literally every kind of manufacturer, and the weight of replies to the department has been heavy.

'Year of the manager' call

A call to make 1978 "the year of the manager" comes from Sir Derek Ezra, chairman of the British Institute of Management Council. In his new year message to the BTM's 57,000 individual members and 12,000 member organizations, Sir Derek says: "If we are to achieve industrial growth and reduce the high level of unemployment it is the manager who will be seeking out new marketing opportunities, planning new investment,

Business appointments

Shell UK elects a new managing director

Mr G. H. Fairclough, a director of Shell UK and managing director of Shell Chemicals UK, has been named managing director of Shell UK. Mr W. C. Thomson, chairman of Shell Chemicals UK and a director of Shell UK, has been named managing director of Shell UK. Mr A. V. Alexander is to assume full-time executive group management responsibilities as a director of Sedgwick Forbes Holdings and deputy chairman of Sedgwick Forbes UK and its subsidiaries. Mr J. S. Martin, Mr A. M. Platt and Mr J. M. P. Taylor, Mr A. R. Towler and Mr R. J. White.

Shell UK elects a new managing director

Mr Michael Butler has been made treasurer and deputy director-general, finance department, National Coal Board, from January 1. He succeeds Mr Douglas Wright, who is retiring.
Mr D. P. Tandy has become a director of Property Growth Assurance.
Mr Reg Conway has joined the board of British Relay (Electronics).
Mr E. Goodall, Mr J. Kooymann and Mr J. Moss have become members of the Furniture Development Council.
Mr P. Whitehead has joined the board of Sandhurst Marketing.
Mr Alex Smith has been made chairman and managing director of Upjohn.

Shell UK elects a new managing director

Mr David Mason is to become managing director of Reliance Hosiery (Hull). He succeeds Mr Farus Peter, who is retiring.
Mr N. Gower has been made a director of Teddington Machine Parts.
Mr A. W. Furse is to be a director of Joseph Shakespear from January 1.
Mr Harry Horsby has been made director of the Process Plant Association from January 3.
Mr Peter Duxbury of Walker & Rice is to be the new chairman of the recently formed British Fabric Association from April 1.
Mr L. B. G. Livingstone-Learmonth has been elected to succeed Mr W. T. Dunne as chairman of The Publications.

Shell UK elects a new managing director

Mr Geoffrey Moss is the new chairman of Edbro (Scotland) since its acquisition by Edbro (Holdings).
Mr R. C. Huber has gone on to the board of A. D. International. Mr H. Bauerfeld is to retire.
Mr John Harper has been confirmed as assistant managing director, finance department, communications, from January 1.
Mr R. C. Nightingale, director of property investments of The Property Unit Trusts Group, is to be chief executive from January.
Mr N. Berry succeeds Mr J. D. Ogden as chairman of Futura Holdings from January 1.
Mr Guy Neely has become financial director and secretary of International Distribution and Trading in place of Mr V. G. Williams, who continues as deputy chairman.
Mr Colin Wise, joint-managing and financial director of the United Kingdom operation of Ideal Standard, is now vice-president, control and finance, of Ideal Standard Europe.

Shell UK elects a new managing director

Mr I. Douglas Lowe has been made an executive member of the board of Bruntons (Musselburgh) since the position of assistant managing director.

Shell UK elects a new managing director

British Transport Docks Board is to buy the Hull Superintending and Tallying Company, which provides specialist checking services for cargoes through the port. Subject to formal agreement the takeover will be effective from January 7.
Hull and Humber Cargo Handling Co., the tallying company's wholly-owned subsidiary, is the largest employer of labour at Hull port.

FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

Stock markets

Bargain hunters buy short gilts and leave most shares alone

Share prices continued to edge ahead but in far less spectacular fashion than on Tuesday.
With some commentators casting doubts on the OECD forecasts for inflation and others pointing out the disadvantages to exporters of a strong pound, investors decided that renewed caution was the best policy.
The day's business threw up a variety of isolated features among the second-line stocks, but the pre-announced export-orientated leaders pitch saw little action, a trend which many dealers expect to be extended well into the New Year.
By 10 am the FT index was 2.3 ahead on limited support for the new account. But this neglect of the "blue chips" soon took its toll and the index closed just 0.2 up at 490.6 in spite of a half-hearted attempt at a rally in mid-afternoon.

Un went E. Fogarty (pillows) up 2.5 to 144p a fortnight ago. It announced a one-for-four scrip issue in preference shares with a 10.5 per cent coupon net equal to 15.9 per cent gross. Now the ordinary shares are just 44p. Apart from giving the group trustee status the preference shares should command par value. If so, shareholders will collect an extra 25p of preference share for every 10 ordinary shares they own. After the issue the ordinary dividend will still be 5.5 times covered by profits; and these are growing well.

In the gilt-edged market a strong currency and interest rate hopes centred most demand at the short end. Here gains stretched up to half a point and the Government Broker activated the short "tap" at 95 15/16 before withdrawing. He is expected to return at 97 matching the price in the market.
Longer maturities had a comparatively subdued time though they did manage to regain early losses of around one

eighth with similar gains on overnight levels.
Though most of the leading industrial shares held up, two which did not were Glaxo which slipped 7p to 600p and Beecham where the fall was 5p to 635p. More typical were Metal Box, unchanged at 312p, Boverton, unchanged at 184p and ICI which added just a penny to 361p.
In the building sector and combination of speculative demand and hopes of an early cut in the mortgage rates brought some good features. Housebuilders Gough Cooper 3p to 73p, Fairview Estates 3p to 101p, and Barratt Developments 2p to 115p all gained ground. There was a spectacular gain of 16p to 186p from contractor J. Jarvis, while speculative demand also had SGB 9p to the good at 154p, Marchwell 5p to 267p and RMC up 5p to 133p.

Over in plantations Assam Frontier continued its volatile existence on takeover hopes, this time rising 20p to 390p, while Plantation Holdings gained 5p to 55p on reorganization plans.
Comment was good for rises of 10p to 235p for motor dealer Price & Clarke and of 3p to 78p for Rustenburg. In a generally dull brewery sector special demand made a feature of Buxtonwood which closed 5p to the good at 146p.
While gold shares continued to go ahead, in some cases by as much as 50p, this collapsed in line with the metal price. Worst hit were Gopeng,

which slumped 15p to 270p, Kinta Kellas where the fall was 13p to 182p, Geveor which dipped 15p to 45p, and South Crofty which ended 5p down at 61p.
Among speculative stocks strong features were to be found in Brent Chemical which gained another 6p to 204p, United Scientific 4p to 209p, De Vere Hotels 3p to 173p, on further small buying, and Wilkinson Match which ended at 213p, after early strength on hopes of an all-out bid from the Allegheny Company of the United States.
Oil saw BP a couple of pence firmer at 864p after a brokers' circular, Shell 6p lower at 530p after a late dip and Stebens another 10p firmer at 274p on more speculative interest. But dealers take a cautious view of the last named feeling that the share is looking a little overpriced.

News that Tesco had boosted Christmas sales by 60 per cent did little for the share price at 45p just half a point better, while Sainsbury managed to add a couple of points for a close at 200p. Elsewhere in close to 200p, Biscuits was a good market at 208p, up 4p, but Associated Biscuits did not benefit from its United States acquisition, losing 2p to 86p.
Electricals had two good features in Pye, up 3p to 107p, and BICC which ended five points to the good at 117p.
Fading bid hopes left Rowntree's 7p lower at 152p while and of account profit clipping 2p from Madams Tussauds at 58p.

For once the clearing bank did not move in concert, both National Westminster at 250p and Lloyds at 222p closed up but there was no movement from Midland at 300p and Barclays at 340p.
Press comment meant that the discount houses formed the strongest feature in the financial markets. This strength was typified by gains of 10p to 42p from Union, 5p to 27p from Alexander, 3p to 325p by Avon Harvey & Ross and 4p to 250p from Gillett Brothers.

Down at 290p for a couple of weeks Oil Exploration was suddenly back in favour with a spectacular rise of 14p to 336p. The word is that the much-rumoured talks with an American oil group are under way again though dealers think Government approval for any such deal would be hard to win. The group has just won a new well in the Thelma Field.

In properties Estates Property added 6p to 83p while elsewhere H. Draxman closed 12p to the good at 114p, Cornew Pope rose 6p to 65p, RHP 6p to 65p, on comment and Adwint 9p to 252p.
Equity turnover on December 23 was 546.31m (7,446 lots, gains). Active stocks yesterday, according to Exchange 110, graph, were Shell, Grand Metropolitan, National Westminster, BAT, Imperial Chemical, Bank of Scotland, Midland Bank and United Dominions Trust.

Latest results

Company	Share Price	Dividend	Dividend Yield	Dividend Payout	Dividend Cover	Dividend Growth
Alkali Works (I)	1.00	0.28 (0.24)	28%	1.9 (1.6)	14/2	(-6.24)
Barroora Bldgs (I)	1.00	0.28 (0.24)	28%	1.9 (1.6)	14/2	(-6.24)
Brentford (F)	8.0 (3.9)	1.0 (0.74)	12.5%	0.74 (0.66)	31/3	(-1.21) (1.4)
Change Wares (I)	4.4 (4.3)	0.27 (0.33)	6.1%	1.3 (1.3)	26/1	(-3.8)
Philip Harris (I)	120.05 (82.13b)	45.36 (19.13b)	37.8%	175.2 (184.5)	7/2	(-4.2)
Koninklijke (I)	20.3 (20.7)	0.61 (0.51)	3.0%	1.5 (1.3)	7/2	(-0.1)
Kuala Lumpur (P)	120.05 (82.13b)	45.36 (19.13b)	37.8%	175.2 (184.5)	7/2	(-4.2)
Manasse Ferg	51.3 (42.4)	1.4 (1.2)	2.7%	1.5 (1.3)	7/2	(-0.1)
Midland (I)	20.3 (20.7)	0.61 (0.51)	3.0%	1.5 (1.3)	7/2	(-0.1)
Wilkins & M (I)	20.3 (20.7)	0.61 (0.51)	3.0%	1.5 (1.3)	7/2	(-0.1)

EIB lends £91m to UK utilities

Six loans totalling £91.2m have been granted to various British public utilities by European Investment Bank, the EEC's long-term finance institution.
The largest, worth £52.3m, goes to the Electricity Council on a 15-year term at 8.65 per cent. The loan will help meet the construction cost of a power station at Heysham, Lancashire.
The EIB has also lent £19.5m to the Northern Water Council, on the same conditions. The proceeds will be passed on to the Northumbrian Water Authority for the Kielder Water Scheme.
British Steel Corporation has been granted a £11.5m loan for 12 years at 8.6 per cent.
Finally, British Rail has received £7.2m—repayable in 12 years and bearing 8.45 per cent interest—which will cover about half the cost of special high-speed train depot.

A 'small surplus' now in sight at Wilkins & Mitchell

By Tony May
A return to profits at Wilkins & Mitchell is definitely in sight. The first six months of the year is the hardest time for this machine-tool and Servis washing-machine maker, and with turnover dipping from £20.7m to £20.3m, pre-tax losses for the half year to October 1 increased from £508,000 to £611,000. But this is in line with the board's expectations at the start of the year that the second half would be the time to witness an improvement in the group's fortunes.
Now the board says that the work done in the power press division and in the Servis domestic appliance division, although not showing itself in full profitability at this stage, gives cause for a greater

degree of confidence. Given reasonable market conditions in the domestic appliance division for the rest of the year, the year-end results from the United Kingdom operations should enable the group to show a small surplus.
This confidence is reflected in the increased interim dividend of 0.38p gross compared with 0.15p a year ago.
Over the whole of last year the group managed to cut its losses from £1.64m to £211,000. The United Kingdom side made a profit of £191,000 but this was wiped out by losses of £712,000 from the Australian offshoot.
The group took rapid action after the Australian company, an active realising its structure and management Mr Henry Wilkins, chairman, was able to

The Mid Kent Water Company
"Continued Expansion and Development"
reports Mr. A. W. White, the Chairman.

The Annual General Meeting of The Mid Kent Water Company was held at the principal office of the Company, High Street, Maidstone, Kent, on Thursday 29th December, 1977.
The following is the Chairman's Statement for the year ended 30th September, 1977.

By comparison with the previous year, 1977 was an uneventful one in regard to water supply.
It would have been unwise of me, a year ago, to have predicted that the heavy rainfall, which had occurred from September onwards, would continue, but, in the event, the rainfall for the first three months of this year was also above average and we approached the Summer with near average groundwater table conditions. As we will recall the Summer was confined to a few fine weeks and the overall demand for water did not reach the high levels attained in 1976.

Industrial use was also less than anticipated, due probably to a combination of circumstances, including the continuance of water saving measures introduced the previous summer, changes in marketing methods, particularly food (in the widest sense) and the increasing costs of both supplying water and disposing of the effluent.

Consumption of water for domestic purposes, however, was maintained and from the figures available it appears that this company is still developing more rapidly than any other company or Water Authority division in the country. Even so, per capita consumption of water for domestic purposes is well below the average, which I believe is an indication of the effectiveness of our waste detection arrangements, which have been applied vigorously and indeed further extended. We are, therefore, having to make the best possible use of the now limited local groundwater resources and during the year we have constructed trial boreholes into the Chalk and Lower Greensands at four new sites.

The laying of the new trunk main from Chilham to Ashford is nearing completion and this will ensure adequate supplies for this steadily expanding township with its varying industrial activities for a period up to the early 1990s. We have commenced work on a new

treatment works adjacent to the pumped storage reservoir at Bewl Ridge, which will be used to supply water to rural communities in the western part of the Weald of Kent. The joint promotion of the new Broad Oak Reservoir with the Southern Water Authority, is proceeding satisfactorily but slowly and we have had to apply for a temporary increase in the abstraction licences for several existing pumping stations (which will lapse on the commissioning of this scheme) so as not to jeopardise the future water supplies to the City of Canterbury and the surrounding area.
The reliability of supplies has been increased by the construction of a new covered service reservoir at Charing Hill, and new Laboratories have been built adjacent to our Head Office at Snodland, so as to provide the proper facilities for ensuring the highest possible standards of purity.

One of the effects of this continuing and expanding capital works programme is the need to raise substantial sums of new capital annually. It is encouraging to note the recent drop in both interest rates and the rate of inflation, but even so, the level of capital expenditure necessary to comply with our statutory obligations to meet the still steadily rising demand for water is such that further increases in water rates and charges are inevitable.

However, every effort is being made to contain operating costs and I am pleased to report a reduction in staff, despite the increasing workload.
The possibility of the further reorganisation of the Water Industry has featured in my last two statements and although the threat to the continued existence of companies by nationalisation has not been removed completely, the Government's latest White Paper indicates that such proposals will not be proceeded with at the present time. This declaration is, I believe, good for the industry and the country as a whole and the directors and staff will be able to continue to play their part with the Water Authorities and the National Water Council, or its successor, in maintaining and improving upon the standard of service, which has no equal anywhere in the world.

1977/12/30

NOTICE OF REDEMPTION

To Holders of

International Standard Electric Corporation
8 1/4% Sinking Fund Debentures, Due 1986

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that pursuant to Section 3.02 of the Indenture dated as of February 1, 1971, between International Standard Electric Corporation and Bank of America National Trust and Savings Association, Trustee, (the "Indenture"), \$4,500,000 principal amount of International Standard Electric Corporation 8 1/4% Sinking Fund Debentures due 1986 (the "Debentures") have been called for redemption on February 1, 1978 (the "Redemption Date") through the operation of the Sinking Fund at 100% of the principal amount thereof, together with interest thereon at the rate of 8 1/4% per annum to the Redemption Date. Pursuant to section 3.03 of the Indenture, the Trustee has selected for redemption on February 1, 1978 the following Debentures, to wit:

\$1,000 COUPON DEBENTURES, EACH BEARING THE PREFIX LETTER "M"

1	841	2713	2653	3679	4743	5593	6436	7250	8097	9062	10000	11011	12031	13063	14097	15097	16088	17099	18088	19099	20504	21571	22541	23539	24564
2	882	2722	2662	3688	4752	5602	6435	7249	8096	9061	10009	11010	12030	13062	14096	15096	16087	17098	18087	19098	20503	21570	22540	23538	24563
3	883	2723	2663	3689	4753	5603	6436	7250	8097	9062	10010	11012	12032	13064	14098	15098	16089	17099	18088	19099	20504	21571	22541	23539	24564
4	884	2724	2664	3690	4754	5604	6437	7251	8098	9063	10011	11013	12033	13065	14099	15099	16090	17100	18089	19100	20505	21572	22542	23540	24565
5	885	2725	2665	3691	4755	5605	6438	7252	8099	9064	10012	11014	12034	13066	14100	15100	16091	17101	18090	19101	20506	21573	22543	23541	24566
6	886	2726	2666	3692	4756	5606	6439	7253	8100	9065	10013	11015	12035	13067	14101	15101	16092	17102	18091	19102	20507	21574	22544	23542	24567
7	887	2727	2667	3693	4757	5607	6440	7254	8101	9066	10014	11016	12036	13068	14102	15102	16093	17103	18092	19103	20508	21575	22545	23543	24568
8	888	2728	2668	3694	4758	5608	6441	7255	8102	9067	10015	11017	12037	13069	14103	15103	16094	17104	18093	19104	20509	21576	22546	23544	24569
9	889	2729	2669	3695	4759	5609	6442	7256	8103	9068	10016	11018	12038	13070	14104	15104	16095	17105	18094	19105	20510	21577	22547	23545	24570
10	890	2730	2670	3696	4760	5610	6443	7257	8104	9069	10017	11019	12039	13071	14105	15105	16096	17106	18095	19106	20511	21578	22548	23546	24571
11	891	2731	2671	3697	4761	5611	6444	7258	8105	9070	10018	11020	12040	13072	14106	15106	16097	17107	18096	19107	20512	21579	22549	23547	24572
12	892	2732	2672	3698	4762	5612	6445	7259	8106	9071	10019	11021	12041	13073	14107	15107	16098	17108	18097	19108	20513	21580	22550	23548	24573
13	893	2733	2673	3699	4763	5613	6446	7260	8107	9072	10020	11022	12042	13074	14108	15108	16099	17109	18098	19109	20514	21581	22551	23549	24574
14	894	2734	2674	3700	4764	5614	6447	7261	8108	9073	10021	11023	12043	13075	14109	15109	16100	17110	18099	19110	20515	21582	22552	23550	24575
15	895	2735	2675	3701	4765	5615	6448	7262	8109	9074	10022	11024	12044	13076	14110	15110	16101	17111	18100	19111	20516	21583	22553	23551	24576
16	896	2736	2676	3702	4766	5616	6449	7263	8110	9075	10023	11025	12045	13077	14111	15111	16102	17112	18101	19112	20517	21584	22554	23552	24577
17	897	2737	2677	3703	4767	5617	6450	7264	8111	9076	10024	11026	12046	13078	14112	15112	16103	17113	18102	19113	20518	21585	22555	23553	24578
18	898	2738	2678	3704	4768	5618	6451	7265	8112	9077	10025	11027	12047	13079	14113	15113	16104	17114	18103	19114	20519	21586	22556	23554	24579
19	899	2739	2679	3705	4769	5619	6452	7266	8113	9078	10026	11028	12048	13080	14114	15114	16105	17115	18104	19115	20520	21587	22557	23555	24580
20	900	2740	2680	3706	4770	5620	6453	7267	8114	9079	10027	11029	12049	13081	14115	15115	16106	17116	18105	19116	20521	21588	22558	23556	24581
21	901	2741	2681	3707	4771	5621	6454	7268	8115	9080	10028	11030	12050	13082	14116	15116	16107	17117	18106	19117	20522	21589	22559	23557	24582
22	902	2742	2682	3708	4772	5622	6455	7269	8116	9081	10029	11031	12051	13083	14117	15117	16108	17118	18107	19118	20523	21590	22560	23558	24583
23	903	2743	2683	3709	4773	5623	6456	7270	8117	9082	10030	11032	12052	13084	14118	15118	16109	17119	18108	19119	20524	21591	22561	23559	24584
24	904	2744	2684	3710	4774	5624	6457	7271	8118	9083	10031	11033	12053	13085	14119	15119	16110	17120	18109	19120	20525	21592	22562	23560	24585
25	905	2745	2685	3711	4775	5625	6458	7272	8119	9084	10032	11034	12054	13086	14120	15120	16111	17121	18110	19121	20526	21593	22563	23561	24586
26	906	2746	2686	3712	4776	5626	6459	7273	8120	9085	10033	11035	12055	13087	14121	15121	16112	17122	18111	19122	20527	21594	22564	23562	24587
27	907	2747	2687	3713	4777	5627	6460	7274	8121	9086	10034	11036	12056	13088	14122	15122	16113	17123	18112	19123	20528	21595	22565	23563	24588
28	908	2748	2688	3714	4778	5628	6461	7275	8122	9087	10035	11037	12057	13089	14123	15123	16114	17124	18113	19124	20529	21596	22566	23564	24589
29	909	2749	2689	3715	4779	5629	6462	7276	8123	9088	10036	11038	12058	13090	14124	15124	16115	17125	18114	19125	20530	21597	22567	23565	24590
30	910	2750	2690	3716	4780	5630	6463	7277	8124	9089	10037	11039	12059	13091	14125	15125	16116	17126	18115	19126	20531	21598	22568	23566	24591
31	911	2751	2691	3717	4781	5631	6464	7278	8125	9090	10038	11040	12060	13092	14126	15126	16117	17127	18116	19127	20532	21599	22569	23567	24592
32	912	2752	2692	3718	4782	5632	6465	7279	8126	9091	10039	11041	12061	13093	14127	15127	16118	17128	18117	19128	20533	21600	22570	23568	24593
33	913	2753	2693	3719	4783	5633	6466	7280	8127	9092	10040	11042	12062	13094	14128	15128	16119	17129	18118	19129	20534	21601	22571	23569	24594
34	914	2754	2694	3720	4784	5634	6467	7281	8128	9093	10041	11043	12063	13095	14129	15129	16120	17130	18119	19130	20535	21602	22572	23570	24595
35	915	2755	2695	3721	4785	5635	6468	7282	8129	9094	10042	11044	12064	13096	14130	15130	16121	17131	18120	19131	20536	21603	22573	23571	24596
36	916	2756	2696	3722	4786	5636	6469	7283	8130	9095	10043	11045	12065	13097	14131	15131	16122	17132	18121	19132	20537	21604	22574	23572	24597
37	917	2757	2697	3723	4787	5637	6470	7284	8131	9096	10044	11046	12066	13098	14132	15132	16123	17133	18122	19133	20538	21605	22575	23573	24598
38	918	2758	2698	3724	4788	5638	6471	7285	8132	9097	10045	11047	12067	13099	14133	15133	16124	17134	18123	19134	20539	21606	22576	23574	24599
39	919	2759	2699	3725	4789	5639	6472	7286	8133	9098	10046	11048	12068	13100	14134	15134	16125	17135	18124	19135	20540	21607	22577	23575	24600
40	920	2760	2700	3726	4790	5640	6473	7287	8134	9099	10047	11049	12069	13101	14135	15135	16126	17136	18125	19136	20541	21608	22578	23576	24601
41	921	2761	2701	3727	4791	5641	6474	7288	8135	9100	10048	11050	12070	13102	14136	15136	16127	17137	18126	19137	20542	21609	22579	23577	24602
42	922	2762	2702	3728	4792	5642	6475	7289	8136	9101	10049	11051	12071	13103	14137	15137	16128	17138	18127	19138	20543	21610	22580	23578	24603
43	923	2763	2703	3729	4793	5643	6476	7290	8137	9102	10050	11052	12072	13104	14138	15138	16129	17139	18128	19139	20544	21611	22581	23579	24604
44	924	2764	2704																						

Authorized Units, Insurance & Offshore Funds

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Began, Dec 12. Dealings End, Today. § Contango Day, Jan 3. Settlement Day, Jan 1.
§ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days

1. *Journal of the American Medical Association*, 1997; 277: 1033-1036.

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The news conference was attended by the president, several cabinet members and a number of senior officials. The president declared that the United States was planning to take a course of action which would be aimed at the defense of the country.

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Mr. Nicholas, leader of the African National Congress, known as the ANC, is one of those taking part in the conference aimed at a minority rule settlement. The other two are the Mazowewa of the National Africanist Movement, led by Jeremiah Chabangu, and the Zimbarwilla Zimbarwilla's Organization. Since the conference began on December 2, the two main groups have been in conflict.

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More Home